魔族の姫を従者にして姫ハーレムを作ります。

異世界ならニートが働くと思った？

WHY YOU EXPECTED ANOTHER WORLD TO MOTIVATE A NEET?

2

刈野ミカタ ILLUST. ねこめたる

アルファ文庫 J

Colored Illustrations

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WHY YOU EXPLORE ANOTHER WORLD TO MOTIVATE A NEET?
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「〈海精族〉の《英雄》太公望でーす♪
どーぞ、よ・ろ・し・く・ね♪」

「ようこそ!! 海中都市
ワタツミノミヤへ!!」
セイレ・
ユーフォニア
Seire Euphonia
〈海精族〉の《誓約者》
太公望
Tai Gong Wang
〈海精族〉の《英雄》

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たかればいいじゃない

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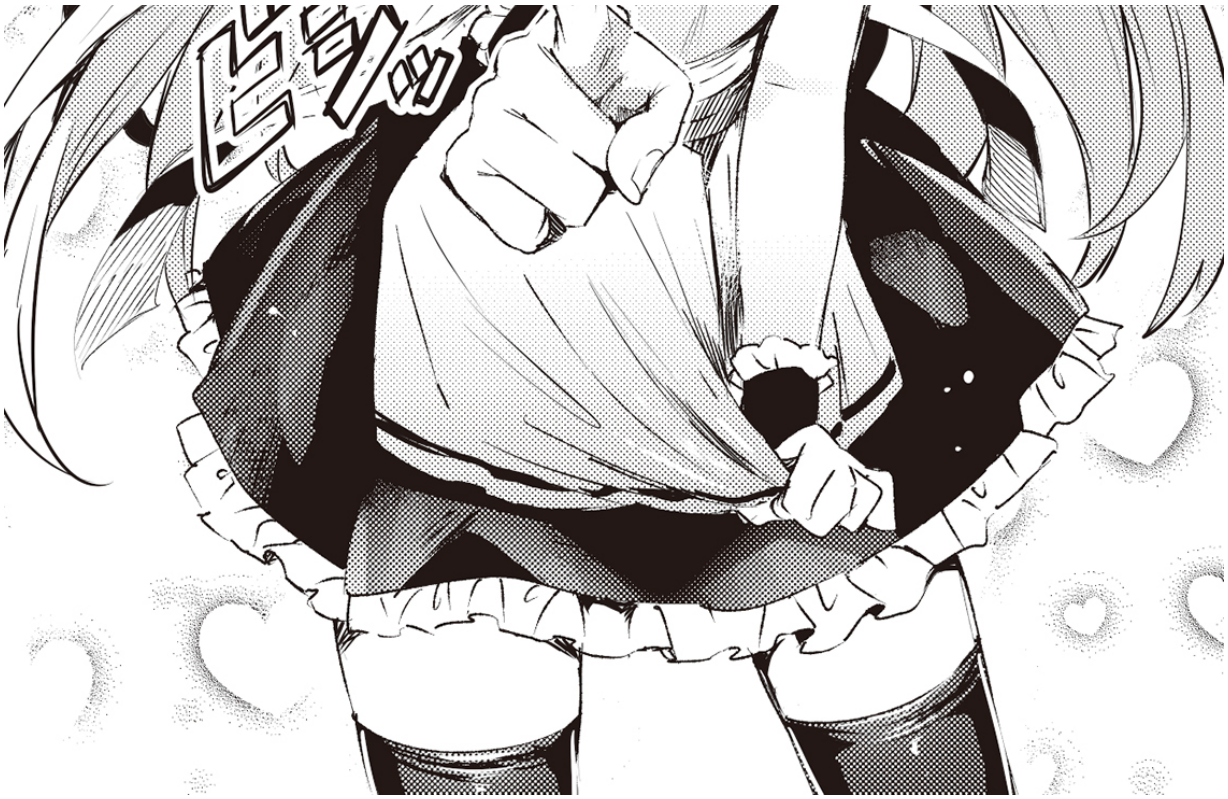
Chapter 1 - NEET, Waiting On Bed

Originally belonging to the 「Elf」, currently the sole territory of 「Liberator」, Tistel.
Deep within the forest, in a certain room of a small castle that did not even have a castletown.
Beautiful platinum blonde hair shone brightly under the sun.
Despite being slim, the bountiful chest portrayed femininity perfectly.
And the girl with long ears that were the proof of the 「Elf」 blood that she had — Tifalycia Cleargreen, was somehow wearing a servant's attire, and with her refined face full of smiles, she spoke to the youth in front of her — Houbami Reiji who held a smartphone with one hand, appearing bored.
"Here, Master♡ Aahn♡"
She took a spoonful of the food placed on the side table, and then carefully brought it right next to Reiji's mouth. He opened his mouth feeling rather troublesome.
"Aah.....*munch munch*."
"Is it delicious, Master♡"
"Hmm.....Seems like the chief chef has improved? The quantity was slightly less than my preference, but I could feel a lot of effort has been put into it. Well, it may just be me getting used to the food on this side too though."
"That's great♡"
"Un, well, it's fine that it's great and all, but can I have a moment?"

“What is it, Master♡”
“Yeah, be it Master♡, or Aahn♡, or That’s great♡.....Don’t you feel embarrassed saying those lines? Or are you a pervert that feels pleasure when saying embarrassing things?”
Reiji displayed an “Uwah, stay away from me” reaction.
Tifalycia’s perfect smile started twitching.
Finally, her body started trembling——
“I.....I——It’s impossible not to feel embarrassed!?”
She broke down.
She threw her headdress onto the bed to show that she had enough, and returned the spoon to the side table.
The master of this castle and the current queen of 「Liberator」 —— **Ruler** Tifalycia Cleargreen pointed at him as she could not bear with it any longer.



“Wh-Whose fault do you think it is that I have to do th-these kinds of embarrassing acts!”
“Eh? Whose fault?”
As Reiji asked back with a serious expression, the finger that Tifalycia had thrusted out lost its strength and lowered, and she muttered quietly with an expression filled with regret.
“Uu.....Kuh.....Me.....It’s my...fault for losing in the 「**Showdown**」 against you.....”
“I know right.”
Smirk.
Thinking back on what happened in that showdown, it seemed as if Tifalycia finally had control over the situation, but it was actually all according to Reiji’s intentions. She had no chance of victory no matter how she struggled, reaching that point was also her own responsibility.

Tifalycia had no complaints regarding that. She could not say it even if she did have some.
What she did have complaint about though was...
“Even though it was working well at first.....”
“Hmm? ──Aah, {Since it’s too embarrassing to endure it with a serious attitude, just treat it as an act. That way I won’t feel embarrassed}, was it?”
“Wh-Wha──”
Why was that...
“Well, you did think through about it more or less. In fact you did well until halfway through. However, you had forgotten about one important thing.”
As Reiji continued on with a serious expression, Tifalycia fixed her posture without thinking...
“.....What...is it?”
And asked seriously.
“That embarrassment itself is the good part!!”
The **Hero** who could be seen pumping his fist with all his might, made her feel the impermanence of life.
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 was such...such a.....
Unaware of Tifalycia’s deep resignation, Reiji emphasized.
“Embarrassed, ashamed, but also feeling pleasure at the same time.....agonizing over a dilemma like that is absolute justice. Nevertheless, what are you doing hiding it like that? Are you an idiot? Do you wanna die?”
“Th-Th-This person.....!”
“How many times have I said this before that the punishment will lose its meaning if you don’t feel punished?”
“Uu.....”
It was...just as he said.
Leaving aside Reiji’s intention for now, letting Tifalycia experience the embarrassment and shame herself, would drive her to reflect

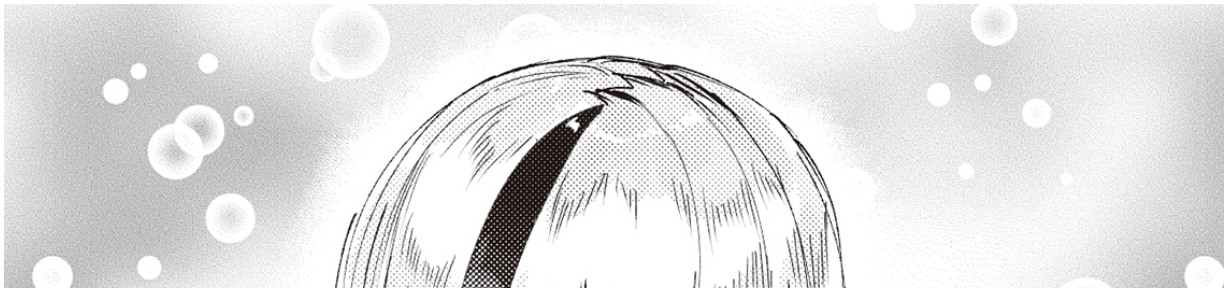
deeply on it in order to not want to experience it again, and it should become the nutrition for her growth from next time──
“Well, personally, I only wanted to enjoy the expression of a beautiful elf girl twisting under shame, the rest doesn't really matter.”
“Does not matter!?”
As Tifalycia retorted on reflex, the worst **Hero** smirked and was about to open his mouth...
But he suddenly fell down face up.
──No, he did not fall down, he was pushed down.
By the girl who appeared from Reiji’s shadow, or to be more precise, the black robe the girl controlled ── the **Magical Artifact** 『Adjacent Darkness』.
“.....Even though I would agonize however much for Master’s sake, if it was me.”
The girl wearing an undergarment-like attire while in a riding position ── the [Quad-Blood Princess] of 「Strega」, Clanleu Shimishika stated so. Before the dumbfounded Tifalycia could raise her voice in protest, Reiji yelled.
“Gaaah, I told you not to appear all of a sudden, Leu!”
The robe pushed him back down again before he could jump out, as he fell back on the bed, Leu immediately sprawled her body over him.
“It’s alright. I have understood Master’s fetish. I will properly follow it. So──”
“Understand what I want to say before understanding my fetish!”
Reiji, who ordered around Tifalycia that should have been his master, and was pushed down by Leu that should have been his servant, desperately struggled around to escape from the robe’s restraint.
“Haa.....Well that’s that. The idea itself is still not bad though.”
“Eh?”

“Punishment cannot be avoided. Then in that case, how to receive it would depend on your own effort. That consideration itself is leaning in a good direction.”
Spoken with a half-hearted attitude, it took her a moment of delay before realizing that Reiji was praising her.
“Th.....Thank you...very much.”
“Breaking down right after I saw through you and poked a bit, you are still so naive.”
“Kuh.....Y-You did it on purpose after all.....”
That provocation was to make Tifalycia return to her usual self.
“Well? Who knows?”
“Uuu.....I still have to learn about a lot more things.....!”
Tifalycia muttered and grabbed ahold of the bed sheet in frustration, as if to hide herself. Reiji curved the tip of his lip upwards, then immediately continued as if nothing happened.
“Well, you just have to squeeze and squeeze out your intelligence dry to make up for your lack of mana.”
Tifalycia Cleargreen. the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 (The Queen of those without a place to go).
The reason that she, who was from the royal bloodline of the 「Elf」, was in such a position was because she had half of the blood of 「Infirma」, the only race amongst the seven races that could not use magic, the weaklings that had to serve under the other races.
She was called [Absence], and she had no mana to use magic──
“That’s...wrong.”
“Hmm?”
The unexpected denial caused Reiji to raise his face.
Leu, who let her robe wriggle around, sat up on the bed and spoke.
“Being unable to use 「Elf」 magic...does not mean she has no mana. The proof is──”
Leu suddenly turned her gaze to Tifalycia...
“Eh. Wai──Eh, wh-what are you!?”

And robbed Tifalycia of her freedom with the black robe in an instant, while she stretched out her hand towards the back of Tifalycia's right ear from the front.
Stroke stroke.
She touched the ear as if covering it.
"Hy──aaAa."
Instantly.
Tifalycia's body jumped in surprise, leaking an arousing voice that even surprised Reiji.
"Like this, she properly has the『Mana Spot』."
"Mana spot.....?"
Reiji asked back on reflex, Leu nodded and spoke while still touching Tifalycia's right ear.
"It is the place where the mana circulating in the body gathers. If mana is blood, 『Mana Spot』 is something like the heart. Every race excluding 「Infirma」 has this kind of 『Mana Spot』."
"Fumu.....In other words, having that 『Mana Spot』 means having mana, being unable to use magic means she doesn't have the power to convert that mana into magic?"
"Yes. Rather, her being so sensitive to it means that her mana itself is quite plenty. If you consider mana alone, it's to the point of being able to use 『Adjacent Darkness (this child)』.....What a closet pervert."
"Ah.....uu...nn...e-enough
already.....remove...your...hand.....ahh...kuunn."
".....Ah, whatever, but why is she panting so much?"
"When races that use magic conduct sexual acts, they also exchange mana with each other along with body fluid. In order to make that exchange smoother, the area where mana gathers becomes sensitive."
"Then, that means──"

“『Mana Spot』 becomes a seikantai[1] for races that can use magic.”
Seikantai.....Erogenous zone?
“Seriously!?”
“Ah.....HaAaa.”
As if reacting to Reiji’s shout, Tifalycia’s body made a great jerk.
It seemed that it was caused by Leu’s skillful hand movement.
“Seriously. By the way, the 『Mana Spot』 of 「Dragonne」 is called 『Reverse Scale』, it is said that something terrible will happen if you touch them there.”
As Leu spoke blandly, Tifalycia, whose cheeks were flushed red, would leak out moans from time to time, desperately enduring the pleasure and shame, but she managed to counterattack.
“E.....Eno──Enough──Stop it!”
Escaping from the robe’s restraint, Tifalycia counterattacked from the back and pushed Leu down while breathing heavily.
“Fu...fufufufufu.....the tables...have been turned. I will make you feel the same thing I felt.....!”
While saying so, Tifalycia tried to touch Leu’s 『Mana Spot』, but soon frowned upon realization.
“H-Huh? Wh-Where.....?”
While she was searching for the spot, Leu got up after pushing Tifalycia away using her robe.
“By the way, the location of 『Mana Spot』 varies from race to race, and also depends on individual physique, it is impossible to guess without the person themselves telling it to you.”
“Wha ── Then...Then why do you know mine!”
“You said it yourself. When you were alone in your room.”
“Eh.....EH!? Y-You just intruded──!?”
“Forgetting about my ability is your own blunder.”
The robe wriggled around as if to show off.

“Ah —— by moving through the shadow.....how d-despicable!”
“That’s the best compliment. Thank you.”
“Uu.....Uuuu.”
Tifalycia bit her lips in frustration while Leu looked down on her with composure.
“Hmm, that means it’s around here huh?”
Reiji moved to the back of Leu unknowingly, and the instant he touched the area below Leu’s left shoulder blade...
“——Hyan.”
From Leu’s mouth, a voice that was completely unlike her leaked out.
“Oh, so it was as I thought. Only this area is unnaturally hidden away.”
Reiji continued to stroke that exact area, Leu bit her finger to desperately suppress the voice that she was about to leak out and turned around.
“.....M-Ma...s...ter.....ah.”
The normally expressionless Leu leaked out an aroused sigh with a flushed face. The pleading gaze let Reiji ascertain it for himself.
“Oooh.....there really is one, this 『Mana Spot』. Oi oi, isn’t this super important?”
Normally, a culture commonly practised in a civilization would hardly be documented.
Calling the opposite sex by nickname being equivalent to proposing for marriage was also one of them, since it was a common sense in the other world, there was no need to purposely document it.



“It’s quite difficult to learn the widely practised culture of a civilization without coming directly into contact with it for a long time.....I’ll have to consider other methods to learn them.”

When Reiji let go of his hands from Leu as he started pondering, Leu slumped poweressly onto him.
“Hmm? Oh, sorry sorry. I think I stroked for too long. Just wanted to test it out a little so ── Huh, uoo!?”
In contrast to the powerless Leu who rested her head on Reiji’s shoulder...
The black robe ── 『Adjacent Darkness』 had become rougher than usual and had restrained both of Reiji’s arms in a blink of eye.
With that, Reiji was robbed of his freedom similar to a stringed puppet, as he saw the eyes of Leu looking up at him ── he noticed that those red pupils were more moist than usual right now.
“O-Oi.....Leu...san?”
“The one who made me feel like this is ── Master.”
While saying so...
Leu crawled closer to him, and took Reiji’s hand.
That hand...was pressed against her modest chest.
At the same time Reiji’s hand was full of a soft and squishy feeling...
“Ah.....”
Leu...
Leaked out a voice that was a lot more aroused than usual...
“Nn.....n.....Take.....responsibility.....?”
Pleaded while glancing upwards.
Towards that irresistible, appealing to instinct appearance, Reiji was──
“──What are you doing!!”
Tifalycia interrupted at the last moment.
“──”
The sudden disruption caused the robe’s restraint to weaken, allowing Reiji who recovered his rationale faster to escape the predicament he was in with a hair’s breadth.
“That was close.....Almost went along with the dangerous flow.”
“.....I forgot...you existed.”

Reiji sighed in relief, while Leu clicked her tongue.
Tifalycia glared at the two of them and spoke with her arms folded.
“Have you two forgotten the original objective!”
“Ah? Objective?”
“.....What is that?”
“Leu-san definitely remembers it right.....You are just playing dumb right.....!”
Staring at Leu from the front, confirming that she looked away, Tifalycia sighed.
Then took in a bigger breath...
“It’s the world’s movement after the [Authority]!”
And shouted with all her might.
◆◇◆◇
——Ten days after the [Authority] when the contract which liberated the 「Infirma」 was established with all the other races.
The world did not change as much as Tifalycia had expected it to.
“I had believed that it was due to the prohibition against exploiting the 「Infirma」, which caused the specifications of the **Heroic War** to change.....every race seems to be rather cautious of us.”
“Well, there’s that. We more or less did change a part of the cogwheel that makes up this world? They can’t just recklessly make a move.”
The person who was responsible for that change was lazily lying on the bed and suppressing himself from yawning out of boredom, a hopeless case.
“Don’t you feel even a little bit of responsibility.....”
“I don’t. Not even a little bit.”
Reiji showed how little he cared with his thumb and index finger almost touching, Tifalycia, on behalf of the world, deeply sighed.
“You’re the worst as usual.....”
“So then, specifically, tell me in what way did which race and which **Heroes** not make a move?”

“Eh.....in what way did which race not make a move?”
Making a move aside, how should she explain in greater detail on how they did not make a move?
While Tifalycia had a question mark floating above her head, Reiji moved his gaze towards the expressionless girl standing next to him.
“There are three major concerning matters.”
Accepting Reiji’s question naturally, Leu's black robe raised three fingers, and she spoke while lowering one.
“First is the **Hero** of 「Dragonne」, Arthur Pendragon. Because 「Infirma」 was not important to them in the first place, they immediately declared that they will not use 「Infirma」 in the **Heroic War**. The **Ruler** also acknowledged it.”
“Wh──”
Why did she know this?
As if refusing to answer that question, the black robe ── 『Adjacent Darkness』 wriggled.
“Ah, they do seem like the type to say that. Certainly, 「Dragonne」 are pure battle maniacs.....Their magic system is 『Dragon God Metamorphosis』, this is also a part of their battle specialized **Heroic War**. I also saw through their inner thoughts during the [Authority]. They are just how they look, it’s not really bad.”
As Reiji grinned and urged her on, Leu lowered the second finger.
“Next is the **Hero** of 「El Blanche」 Jeanne d’Arc. She also supported on not using 「Infirma」, but the **Ruler** objected, so it was dismissed for now. It is said that she is going to continue persuading.”
“Even the actual last boss race that uses the cheat known as 『Prophecy (Prediction Magic)』 cannot ignore the words from their **Hero** huh. Isn’t conflicting opinions between the **Hero** and the **Ruler** a good trend?”
“Eh, even intel on the 「El Blanche」.....”

In contrast to the Tifalycia's astonished face, Leu and Reiji showed composed expressions.
“By the way, 「Dragonne」 and 「El Blanche」 are clearly treating 「Liberator」 as an enemy.”
“Eh──”
“That’s obvious. Especially since the 「El Blanche」 seems to have some sort of noble justice mission known as the 『Noblesse Oblige』? Even though the 「Infirma」 should have been saved by the 「El Blanche」, 「Liberator」 ended up snatching the spotlight from them.”
「El Blanche」themselves claim to have come from a world that overlooked the land, messengers from the realm of heaven so to say ── proclaimed as 『Angel』, 『Administrator of the World』, they saw other races as one grade below them. It was also 「El Blanche」 who would declare something like 『Revere us, then we shall save you』 to the other races.
Reiji evaluated their ability as the 『Last Boss』. Their sorcery, known as 『Prophecy』 and their purely enormous mana pool had exterminated the world six times over in the [Seventh] before, and it could be said that the world would have eventually fallen into their hands if that war had continued normally.
Leu seemed to have obtained intel from even that 「El Blanche」.
“Lastly.....「Strega」.”
“「Strega」!?”
「Strega」 had completely shrouded their entire existence itself in mystery, even the location of Dillide, the country of 「Strega」, was unknown.
Even though it could be said that they had appeared back on stage for the first time after decades during the [Authority] that took place some time ago, how did she obtain intel from that race──
Leu tilted her head in wonder at Tifalycia's astonishment.
“.....? What’s strange about investigating my own race?”

“Ah.....certainly.....that’s...right.”
In the first place, Leu was a 「Strega」.
Because they had been near each other for so long, and Leu herself also was too different from the image of the 「Strega」 that she had, she ended up completely forgetting about it.
No ── who exactly was Leu in the first place?
Her appearance and magic system undoubtedly were proof of her being a 「Strega」, but her existence itself seemed to be too outrageous ── ignoring Tifalycia’s behavior that held such fundamental doubts, Leu continued.
“Only the 「Strega」 is incomprehensible. **Hero** Faust arbitrarily isolated the 「Infirma」 within the territory.”
“Isolated within the territory? They were also strange during the [Authority], 「Strega」.....”
“It’s like what Master thought. The **Hero** and **Ruler** of 「Strega」 that attended the [Authority] were both fakes.”
“Eh!? F-Fakes!?”
“As I thought. Their reactions were too deliberate. Well, the other races were likely to use replacement as well.”
“It’s the [Authority] you know.....!? If such a thing is known by the other races──”
“「Strega」 does not care if all the other races join forces and attack them. In the first place, the interior of 「Strega」 itself is an utter mess.”
“Just hearing all these make me feel like it will be easy to conquer.”
“I advise you not...to do it. It will definitely become troublesome.”
“.....Well, it probably will be like that since Leu said so.”
Seeing Reiji immediately overturned his opinion, Leu nodded and continued.
“「Strega」 does not seem to be doing it with any intentions in mind, but I also cannot see them as doing anything meaningless.”

“Exactly an incomprehensible bunch huh.....That’s the most troublesome. Well, the **Hero** being Faust is very incomprehensible in itself already.”
Reiji tapped his tablet and smiled thinly.
“.....? Is there something strange about it?”
Everyone in this world probably had the same question as Tifalycia. But at the same time, to people from Reiji’s world — the **Heroes’** world, it would be incomprehensible.
That’s because—
“『Faust』 in my world...is the name of the protagonist in a super famous literature (Fiction).”
“The protagonist of a...literature (Fiction)?”
What was displayed on Reiji’s tablet was...the cover of a book.
It was 『Faust』, written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.
“Though, this is a world where Napoleon and Taigoubou would fight each other, so nothing would surprise me at this point anymore.”
Even so, amongst the numerous existing **Heroes** that were famous in history, one of them being non-existent (Fiction) was a bit concerning.
And on top of that, he became the **Hero** of 「Strega」, whose movements were utterly incomprehensible in this world.
Leu, the princess of that 「Strega」, controlled her robe to raise three fingers and bent one.
“By the way, 「Elf」 is taking a wait-and-see approach because they do not have a **Hero**. The **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 was just changed so they are too busy with that. And both the **Hero** and **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 announced that they would follow the pace of the other races.”
「Elf」 taking a wait-and-see approach because of their disadvantage of not having a **Hero** was understandable. 「Sirena」 announcing something that seemed meaningful but was actually insubstantial was also expected.

And then.
“「Beastia」 seems to be in trouble.Swapping the **Ruler** before the term’s completed. This is just as if they are asking the other races to take advantage of that gap.”
“.....I believe that the 「Beastia」 do not want to be hearing that from you.”
「Beastia」 would probably be the race that took the most major action, or rather, were forced to take.
The reason for that was none other than 「Liberator」 ── More accurately, Reiji, their **Hero**.
Despite winning the **Heroic War** against the 「Liberator」, Edolas, the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」, lost in a direct duel with Reiji, and was temporarily robbed of the **Heroic War** authority, an authority which could decide the fate of the race depending on the scenario.
“No matter the reason, betting the **Heroic War** authority is a foolish act. Taking responsibility for that is natural.”
Like what Leu blandly stated, 「Beastia」 was probably criticizing him for the same thing.
Regardless of his unfinished term, Edolas was immediately dismissed of his role. The 「Beastia」 that was made up of [Perrito], [Koshka], [Renard], [Cuniculus], [Schaf], the five species parliamentary, was already in a heated argument over who was going to be the next ruler.
“The courageous and bold ruler during war times is a short-sighted foolish king during peace times. Even that fellow also doesn’t have a reason to prevent it.”
As Reiji emphasized on the phrase ‘that fellow’, Tifalycia muttered.
“Napoleon Bonaparte.....”
That true identity was the blood-related little sister that had molded her older brother to be the Emperor of the World, Paulette Bonaparte, and controlling him from the back.
“Napoleon Bonaparte is...actually actively inciting this argument.”

“.....For what reason would she be doing that? Even though it will only worsen the chaos.....”
“That’s obviously because she is thinking about what’s ahead. You can see various things during chaos. Like how someone truly thinks of someone.”
As Reiji spoke of it joyfully, Tifalycia felt a cold shiver and hugged her shoulders.
“Anyway, laying a hand on 「Beastia」 now would be foolish. It’s suspicious how their policy has been shaken up so much. Rather, there is a high possibility that she is using this situation as a bait to lure other races.”
“I feel the same.”
Compared to Leu who was keeping up immediately, Tifalycia was about to fall behind.
Just how far ahead had Reiji and Leu predicted?
(──I can’t...be disheartened.....!)
Shaking her head sideways, Tifalycia reorganized her thoughts.
She knew that they were excelling. There was no need to feel depressed about it. Rather, try to see ahead──
“U-Us 「Liberator」 also have a problem.”
Perhaps because she interrupted all of a sudden, Reiji and Leu looked over with surprise.
That reaction caused Tifalycia to shrink back a little, but she pulled in her chin and took out the documents that she prepared ── or rather, the real purpose of her coming to this room.
“Please take a look at this.”
“Eh, don’t wanna.”
“Immediate denial!”
“Rather, you wanted me to read it no matter what, so you lost the 「**Showdown**」.....and even did that punishment game earlier, right?”
“Uu.....Th-That’s.....”

“Well, I can read it if you really want me to, but.....do that one more time.”
“P-Please grant me this favor.....Master♡”
Reiji’s grinning face turned serious after her sudden flirtatious mode.
“Hou.....impressive. Such ad lib is quite effective. Well, it’s laughable when you consider that a **Ruler** is doing it normally, rather, aren’t you embarrassed? Are you alright? Do you feel like dying yet?”
“.....Uu...I feel like I’m losing important things one by one since I met Reiji.....”
“A beautiful elf girl losing important things one by one.....Superb!”
“You are so...!!!”
“Master. I think that this document is important. If you don’t want to read it yourself, I can read it for you.”
“──Ok got it, I will read it myself. I will read it immediately. Gimme.”
Reading the intention of his follower that differed from what she actually said, Reiji instantly yielded and skimmed through the papers on his hand, then immediately returned them to Tifalycia as if he lost interest.
“Geez, I thought what’s the big deal, but it’s just finance.”
“Finance.....Please take a look carefully.”
“I know without needing to see it. Rather, I got ahold of that data one week ago.”
“.....Ha?”
“This territory cannot be self-sufficient since its productivity is low in the first place. Then the occasional trade with 「Beastia」 also ceased, and the connection with 「Elf」 is completely severed, so the income becomes zero. We are completely relying on savings currently, and cannot last even 20 days ── this matter right?”
“You.....already know this, is it?”
“Look here, manually gathering the information by using servants, then doing the calculation yourself.....such a tedious work, using a

smartphone to take photos and calculate is much faster right? Also, the conclusion is obviously one word. Basically ── Doomed.”
As Reiji somehow spoke such with confidence, Tifalycia suddenly realized.
“C-Could it be that...a contingency plan has been thought of──”
“Hmm? There’s no way I would do that.”
“.....!”
“I have said this many times before, don’t rely on a NEET. I don’t do things I don’t want to do, I only do things I want to do. There are times I can answer your expectation, but fundamentally I don’t!”
Reiji snickered as Tifalycia realized how unwise it was of her for having an instance of expectation.
“.....I was foolish.”
“Exactly.”
“Kuh.....E-Every single time.....!”
Tifalycia clenched her fist, and immediately told herself to calm down.
Reiji’s way of saying things was irritating, but what he said was reasonable.
Even if he didn’t say it out loud, it was honestly not a good thing to completely rely on the more excellent people beside her.
First, think about it yourself.
Remembering what Reiji had said in the past, she began to think while saying out.
“Currently, Tistel is in a worse position than 「Beastia」.”
Just as Reiji said, this land had very low productivity.
Also, because most of the territory here was classified as holy ground that had a different ecosystem compared to the normal one ── a magical territory so to say, what the vast forest area could produce was only lumber and oil, edible things would only be a small quantity of fungi.

In the first place, lumber was the center of their economic development through trading with other countries, after [Authority], although minute, the 「Infirma」 who had obtained freedom would migrate into Tistel (Country of 「Liberator」) at fixed intervals.
Having more citizens was a good thing, but it would be meaningless if they could not make a living.
If the 「Beastia」 was said to be revealing their shortcomings, 「Liberator」 would be clearly waving their shortcomings on a level above that.
—No wait.
Just now, Reiji had said that 「Beastia」 could be using their shortcoming as a bait.
In that case, if 「Liberator」 could use the same move.....?
Tifalycia observed Reiji without thinking, but soon denied such a thought process after seeing the NEET looking over with a smirk.
In the first place, even if she used the same move, she did not know the actual method to achieve it.
Reiji and Leu seemed to have already predicted the method to a certain degree, but asking them directly would be meaningless.
Rather, she simply did not want to.
She would absolutely be treated as an idiot.
“What is it? Got something you wanna ask?”
Reiji asked in a lazy tone as he lied on the bed with one hand supporting his chin, Tifalycia turned her face aside.
“There is nothing.”
“That so?”
Seeing Reiji strangely smiling as if satisfied, Tifalycia was further certain of it.
As expected, she felt that Reiji had read her thoughts.
Then all the more she could not ask him.
.....Of course it was not obstinacy, she would not grow otherwise. He wanted Tifalycia to be able to think independently at least. To

become able to discuss with him on the same level.
Using their weakness as a weapon was an idea that Tifalycia did not have in the past.
What Tifalycia would immediately think of when 「Liberator」 (Own country) was unable to self-sustain, were extremely obvious methods such as relying on other countries.
To such a method, Reiji would probably answer her 『Alright, an idiotic girl』 immediately.
Not limited to 「Liberator」, there was no race that would lend a helping hand to another race without compensation ── he would say something like that.
In the first place, Tistel (Liberator) was too fragile as a country.
That's why they would receive help was what Tifalycia thought, and Reiji would say that's not the case.
Even if they received help, it would be meaningless if unfavorable conditions were attached.
What was necessary was a cooperative relationship on the same standing.
Basically.
"If we formed an alliance....."
Tifalycia muttered half unconsciously, and unexpectedly got a response.
"Heh, there's system for alliance? Even though the races are against one another?"
It was Reiji who spoke those words half-teasingly.
"Eh.....You do not know?"
Hero ── People from another world not knowing about it would only be natural, she was surprised that Reiji did not know about it because he gave her an impression that he knew everything.
Leu probably felt that as well, she stared at Reiji and opened her mouth.
".....It was when **Heroic War** was still called the **Pledged War**."

Pledged War. It was a story before the **Hero** appeared in this world.
“Ah, it’s the story about when snatching the Seal of **Hero** was still snatching the 『Race Flag』 that symbolized the race huh.”
The current **Heroic War** was about snatching the Seal of **Hero**, basically determining the victor by touching the Seal of **Hero**, such an orthodox method, but in the past **Pledged War**, instead of that seal, there existed 『Race Flag』 which signified the same thing.
“The『Race Flag』 itself has been enchanted with 『All races recognized as the same race magic』. That 『Race Flag』 will be exchanged. By doing that, both sides will recognized as the same race.”
“So that same race, for example, if I obtained the 『Race Flag』 of 「Beastia」, the I will temporarily become 「Liberator」 as well as 「Beastia」.....in other words, becoming 『Dual Race』?”
“.....It’s just in name. But that name in itself is important.”
“Hypothetically speaking, even if two **Rulers** decide to cooperate with each other and they pledge not to hold a **Pledged War** between their races under the **Great Contract Magic**, there will still be loopholes. However, by exchanging the 『Race Flag』 enchanted with the magic ‘become the same race’, both the races will be forcefully acknowledged as the same race, the principle of the **Pledged War** will be lost. Therefore, that is what is called an alliance. Fuun.”
“By the way, the『Race Flag』 itself still exists now.....it seems. Since it had already turned into **Heroic War** by the time I was born, I had never seen the one for the 「Elf」 myself, but it should be carved with the **Six Flower in Full Bloom**.”
“If there is a 『Race Flag』, it’s possible to form an alliance. However, whether there is any race that will accept the alliance or not is another story altogether.”
At Leu’s harsh supplement, Tifalycia was unable to speak up.

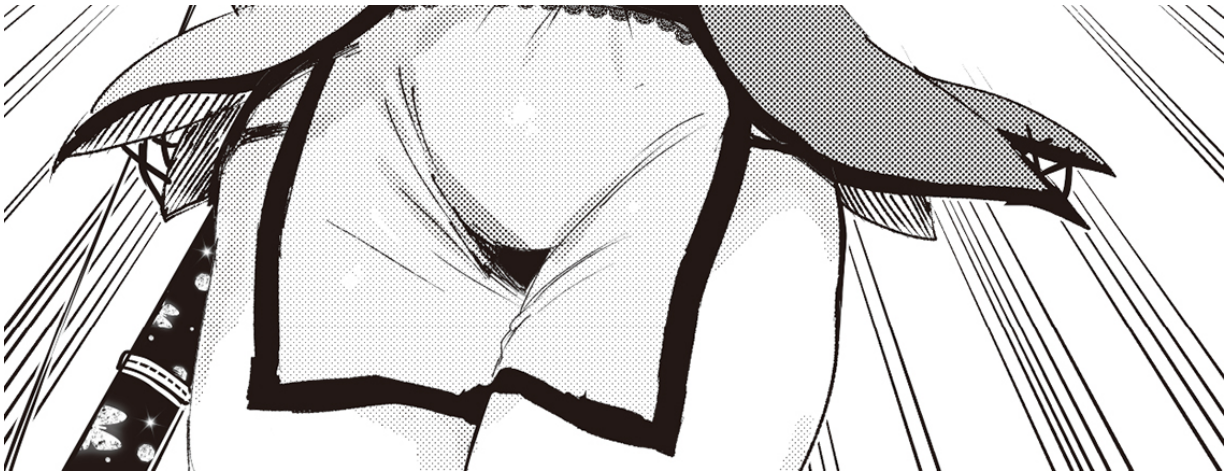
“Well, on top of having strong individuality and personalities, those **Heroes** also have achievements of their own in their former world, so it will be hard to imagine those **Heroes** joining hands.”
“Uuu.....”
“Rather, before all that, we don’t even have the 『Race Flag』 itself. Even the seal representing that is also ── Hup.”
In the middle of his talk, Reiji took off his top and bared his upper body, Tifalycia’s face turned bright red when she saw that.
“Hii.....Wh-Why did you suddenly strip!?”
“──Just as you can see, it has become a situation where you are not sure if there is one or not. Hey oi, look properly.”
Reiji pointed at his chest with his finger where instead of the original **Six Flower in Full Bloom** seal, there was a round frame that seemed like only a trace of it.
“Mine as well.”
The seal on Leu’s snow white thigh was the same round frame similar to Reiji.
“Ah.....eh.....why.....”
“That’s...well, isn’t it because THAT judged that we are no longer 「Elf」?”
Reiji pointed outside the window, and snickered after showing her the floating **Cube** ── **Great Contract Magic**.
The **Great Contract Magic** that was the law of the world.
That **Cube** had completely acknowledged Reiji and co as 「Liberator」.
Understanding this fact through the seal was more astonishing than she thought.
Ignoring the moved Tifalycia, Reiji shrugged his shoulder and said.
“Well, if this is supposed to be the seal of 「Liberator」, it just feels too sloppy.”
“──There is no such thing.”

Watching Reiji and Leu’s seal warmly, Tifalycia spoke from the bottom of her heart.
“The shape can be anything. However, if we know that ── this is our mark...”
Seeing Tifalycia tightening the grip of her hand that was held at her chest, Reiji grinned.
“That’s true, there is no need to fuss over the shape. Then...”
He wore back his shirt and took one step closer to Tifalycia, and while she was confused ── touched the collar at her neck.
“It’s fine for this to be our 『Race Flag』. Since the shape can be anything.”
At the same time as he declared as such, a faintly glowing magic formation spread out.
“.....?Ha? ───D-Don’t tell me...”
Tifalycia instantly noticed, she hurried to the full-length mirror, confirmed that a round frame was carved onto the collar, and opened her eyes wide.
“Oh, as I thought, this much can also be decided. So decisive of you, **Great Contract Magic**-chan.”
Hearing that clearly convinced tone, Tifalycia shouted with vigor at Reiji.
“Wh──Wh-What the heck have you doooone!!”
“What is it, isn’t anything fine? Then isn’t the collar just fine too?”
“Even though anything is fine, isn’t there something better!? Of all things, a collar.....!”
“No no, isn’t the 『Race Flag』 only used when forming alliances? Then, if you decide to form an alliance, that collar must be taken off, right?”
“Eh.....”
“The collar...will be taken off, you know?”
“Th-That’s.....”
──*Huh?*

I wonder why?
*Even though I kept challenging Reiji to 「**Showdown**」 in order to take it off.*
When Reiji spoke of that just now, I don't feel as happy as I thought I would.....
"Hmm?"
"Ah, n-no, of course!"
"Then, for that sake, try to do your best?"
Although it was in a teasing tone, after realizing that he was encouraging her, Tifalycia stopped on spot.
Could it be ── the alliance method itself was positively evaluated?
The delayed joy started seeping in bit by bit, but she didn't want him to find out as that would be embarrassing.
So, Tifalycia tried hard to suppress her expressions and continued.
"I will try hard even if you don't tell me to."
"Umu. Then since I will be sleeping now..."
"Yes ── ah that's wrong, you have to come as well, Reiji!"
"Eh? It's only been ten days since [Authority]. There are still plenty of reserves, shouldn't it still be sufficient for now?"
"They'll be over in just twenty days you know!? Don't you have any sense of danger!"
"Let me teach you something nice. In my world, there's this saying 『Things will come to those who sleep and wait』, so if you sleep, things will turn good on their own──"
"That's a lie! I don't know if it's really a saying in Reiji's world or not, but I at least know that this is an excuse to slack off!"
"Hou, not bad.....Well, there is really a saying with such a meaning, but it's also the truth that it's an excuse to slack of. Well, there's nothing you can change even if you know that. Rather, where exactly do you want to go when you tell me to go?"
"Eh.....Th-That's..."

“{I have not thought about the actual details on how to go about it.....However, since the objective is to form an alliance, I can only go look for races that seem willing to form alliance} or something along that line is what you are thinking?”
“.....”
Tifalycia became speechless, and Reiji spoke lazily.
“In that case, sleeping and waiting is better.”
“That other people business kind of attitude won’t——”
As Tifalycia was about to continue.
“——Eeh, isn’t it great, things come to those who sleep and wait is the best♪”
All of a sudden.
From outside the window, a loud —— overly hyped voice spoke.
Faster than Reiji and co could reflexively turn around, the black robe’s sharp tip stretched out of the window, and stopped before the eyes of that girl.
Slender body wrapped in a mini cheongsam-like attire, the girl that clearly applied makeup blinked her eyes that would leave a great impression on others, ignored her side pony fluttering in the wind, and happily floated there.
——No, upon closer inspection, the girl seemed to be riding on a horse-like animal with two horns growing on its head.
What was flying was that animal.
A horse that grew two horns —— Divine beast. Fishing rod-like...accessory. And that cheerful and casual tone.
Seeing Reiji comparing her with the smartphone screen, the girl tilted her head and asked.
“Hmm? What’s the matter? Is there something on my face♪”
Her appearance suggested that her age was similar to Reiji and co or even younger, but as there was the example of Napoleon = Paulette, the surface age could not be trusted.
.....That’s right.

In other words, she was——
“Ah~ I see I see, I forgot to say the important thing. I haven’t introduced myself yet♪”
The girl kept her high pitch, and was about to continue...
“——There’s no need for that.”
And was interrupted by Reiji.
“Surname Kyou, family name Ryo, last name Shyou. The commonly known name is —— Taigoubou, right?”



That was the same name as the **Hero** of 「Sirena」.
“Taigoubou.....!?”
Tifalycia’s shock was delayed.
“As expected. With just the key item, you immediately know my identity.....Yababa[2].”
As if she found it funny, she laughed out heartily. And kept laughing.
“Haa.....so funny♪”
After laughing her fill, she narrowed her eyes and looked at Reiji and co who felt left behind...
“That’s righty. Just as you see.”
She calmly opened up the cloth at her chest area to reveal the 『Three Convened Jade』 seal carved at there.
“Once again, I am the **Hero** Taigoubou from 「Sirena」♪ Pleased・to・meet・you♪”
Right hand touching her cheek making a peace sign, and finished off with a wink.

◇◆◇

In the Zeganda Sea, at the Tian Lai Archipelago, was the sea city of 「Sirena」.
Their absolute Sorcery 『Resonance』 allowed them to share senses with others upon fulfilling some conditions.

Using that magic, they reinforced communication within the race, causing them to have significantly less internal conflicts compared to other races.
Hence, to the public, they had a strong image of pacifism and gentleness, their **Hero** Taigoubou was also often seen that way, however...
“.....I can’t take it.”
Seeing Reiji furrowing his brows on this rare occasion, the girl that bore not a speck of resemblance to the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 that attended the [Authority] ── the real Taigoubou puffed her cheeks in grief.
“Eeh, aren’t you terrible for saying that all of a sudden?”
“The one being sudden here...is you.”
Leu spoke stiffly, and Tifalycia followed up.
“Th.....That’s right. Even though there’s no **Heroic War**, why did the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 enter the territory of Tistel──”
“Isn’t it because she meant no harm?”
Reiji answered immediately, and continued naturally.
“The auto defense of **Great Contract Magic** will only work in the case of malicious intent. Being able to enter means there is no malicious intent, that’s without a doubt.”
“.....Rather, I’m wondering why Reiji knows about that though.”
The activation condition for the auto defense magic of **Great Contract Magic** was exactly like that, but it was not strange for the act of the **Hero** from another race entering the territory itself to be treated as malicious intent.
At least Tifalycia thought as such, and she believed that there being no **Hero** entering another race’s territory apart from **Heroic War** was the proof.
However...
“Well, because I tried it myself actually.”
“Wha──”

That basically meant...Reiji entered the territory of another race on his own, and it would be a big problem to Tifalycia.
“Rather than that...”
Cutting off that topic, Reiji suppressed the strangely cautious Leu and spoke.
“You, aren’t you originally male? According to history.”
In fact, the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 that attended the [Authority] was also male.
“Eh? Let me think about it.....it’s been so long that I forgot♪ But then but then, the current me is completely a girl you know?”
Saying so, she boldly flipped up her short skirt.
Her slim and healthy white thighs were revealed up to near the root...
“If you want ── want to try it for yourself?”
The girl smiled alluringly.
Reiji clicked his tongue before feeling erotic.
“.....As I thought huh. Since Faust can exist, I thought that you being female is also possible.”
He scratched his head, and complained about how troublesome it was.
Seeing Reiji behaving unlike himself and seriously complaining about the trouble, Tifalycia asked in a small voice.
“What is...going on.....?”
It was unclear whether Tifalycia knew about the **Hero** she summoned herself, but she did not have any information on the **Heroes** of other races.
And the best method of obtaining it was to ask the people that came from the same world.
“The famous person called Taigoubou in our world is mainly divided into two types.”
“Two types?”
“The historically existing person, and the fictional character.”
“Fictional character you say.....”

“The Taigoubou that existed in history.....Old man Ryo Shyou, was the tactician of China’s Emperor at the time. On the other hand, the Taigoubou written in the famous fictional tale The Creation of the Gods was a taoist that was like a deity.....Ah, well, in this world’s term, it means a super human that can use special magic.”
Subsisting through mist, immortal, transcending humanity, known as sennin. That itself could be said to be a creation, its trait was immortality and it was also possible to transcend gender.
“The Taigoubou in The Creation of the Gods had an incredible description of riding an elk divine beast that had two horns to fly in the sky. That’s what it is right?”
Reiji pointed at the horse-like animal flying in the sky ── the elk turned its head away.
And the master riding on its back...
“Hmm. Hmm, too bad! Half correct...about there♪”
Purposely taking a pose for every small matter, she pointed at herself.
“I am just・my・self♪”
“.....Aah?”
Taigoubou iterated the same thing, laughed as if in relief upon seeing Reiji furrowing his brows, and showed a meaningful expression.
“In the first place, the **Hero** summoned by **Hero Summon** is something like the concept of that **Hero**. Since it’s a concept, transcending time or causality, even the existence itself, the **Hero** will be summoned in the ideal state, which wields the most power.”
──For example, the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 Paulette Bonaparte was summoned as Napoleon Bonaparte.
And she manifested in that age appearance.
The **Hero** was summoned in the most ideal state.
“.....I see. Since it transcends existence, that fictional creation can also be included huh.”
Hearing Reiji speaking to himself, she nodded.

“Yes yes. Therefore, I am summoned as the historical figure, fictional character, a product of someone’s imagination, and at the same time, the Taigoubou that is neither of those, something like that.
──By the way, instead of Taigoubou, please call me Ryo-chan♪”
In a cheerful voice at times, in a hyped voice at times, she spoke of the core of **Hero Summon**, it was too difficult for Tifalycia to understand every little detail.
“Summoned with the ideal image of anyone.....?”
Just that part alone was too difficult to accept, she looked seriously at Reiji without thinking.
“Ah, no no. Didn’t I say originally? Only Reiji-chi is different right♪”
“Reiji-chi.....you say?”
Ignoring Reiji who reacted to a different portion, Taigoubou narrowed her eyes.
“Reiji-chi is not conceptual, you are properly fixed in spacetime, in other words, not transcending existence, but actually existing. Because you are a confirmed existence, you have no **Destiny**, and also cannot use **Realtà**. How it became like that is.....because the summoner Tifa Tifa is an [Absence] after all? That’s what I thought though.”
“.....I don’t...really understand but...”
In the first place, the other party was not someone whose words could be fully trusted, there was no need to seriously listen to them. However──
“At least I am greatly convinced that this person is a failure of a **Hero**.....”
Tifalycia stared towards Reiji like that, while he simply ignored it.
“So. That **Hero**-sama of 「Sirena」 has come here for what purpose?”
As if pulling the topic back.
The instant Reiji asked so, Taigoubou’s lips curved into a crescent moon shape...

“Of course, to grant Tifa Tifa and yalls’’ wish♪”
Spreading out both arms, she made a gesture as if to welcome everyone.
“Our...wish.....?”
Tifalycia muttered despite being surprised by that big gesture.
“A・lli・ance ── want to form one with us?”
“.....Ha?”
“──We’re in.”
Seeing the contrasting figure of the dazed **Ruler** and instantly answering **Hero**, she laughed as if feeling joy from the bottom of her heart.

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1. Seikantai - Leu’s speech is always in hiragana, so the spelling せいかんたい is in her speech, which converts to the spelling for 性感帯.

2 やばば - https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/gyaru-go/

Chapter 2 - NEET, Soaring

The night of the day Tistel was invaded by the **Hero** of 「Sirena」. In Reiji's room.
Tifalycia and Reiji ── the **Ruler** and **Hero** of 「Liberator」 respectively, were facing each other having a conversation.
「Liberator」 desperately wanted a partner to form an alliance with.
The fact that such an alliance was offered by 「Sirena」 coincidentally at the same time caused Tifalycia to be unable to hide her suspicion.
".....Isn't it...strange?"
The race 「Sirena」 had their own history, strength, and a **Hero**.
To be offering an alliance towards the 「Liberator」 that had no history, strength, and an unreliable **Hero**──
It was strange no matter how anyone looked at it.
In fact, when Tifalycia had mentioned it at that time, Taigoubou simply tilted her head and lightly answered.
"That's noooot the case?"
She placed a finger next to her lips, pondered, and continued.
"I believe that you know this already, but we had a liiiittle bit of conflict with 「Beastia」before. We suffered quite a bit from it you see."
"Haa....."
As the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 swung her fishing rod, even hitting her own head in the process, she made quite an exaggerated gesture, and the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 could only respond vaguely.

Certainly, before 「Liberator」 had made their founding declaration, 「Sirena」 had lost against 「Beastia」 in the most recent **Heroic War**, and was robbed of their territory.
“Something like being robbed of territory, isn't that a very bad thing? That’s why I was very angry.”
Taigoubou pressed two fingers against her temples out of anger.
“.....Umm, do you have to make such exaggerated gestures for every single thing?”
Tifalycia interrupted her without thinking.
“Hmm, mmhm, I am angry to the point that I must make such gestures.”
However, Taigoubou answered unabashedly , then began to imitate weeping...
“Then, I got angrier and angrier, and when I got angry to the point of crying ── You 「Liberator」 suddenly made a country founding declaration on the territory of 「Beastia」!”
She swirled her fishing rod in high tension and the next instant she pointed it towards them and continued with an interested tone.
“And, and, that [Authority]! Did you see it? That frustrating face of the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 (EdoEdo)! Really, really, that was so satisfying~♪”
She started laughing cheerfully and showed an indescribable expression as she patted her chest, though she should not have been present at the scene herself.
“At that time, I.....no, more accurately speaking, me and the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」, have both totally become your fans. Therefore──”
We can’t wait to form an alliance.
Concluding with that, Taigoubou gave them time to consider it, as it was necessary, and would visit again the next day, inviting them to the Republic of Water Palace to form the alliance, and left soon after.
From then till current.
Tifalycia was in Reiji’s room pondering and pondering.

“After all.....I think it’s still suspicious.”
Muttering those same words that she had repeated countless times already, Tifalycia looked at Reiji who was not taking her seriously at all.
「Sirena」 certainly did have a proper reason to form an alliance with 「Liberator」.
They had one, however...
Would that really be enough for them to consider forming an alliance where both parties were to be treated as equals──?
“Umm, please listen to what I am saying properly.....”
“Hmm?”
Tifalycia could not endure it anymore and called out. Reiji just laid down on the bed, tapping his tablet without even glancing at her, and spoke without turning away from the screen.
“It’s the same thing whether I listen to it or not. Didn’t I already give my response?”
“Th-That’s.....”
“Isn’t it fine, the alliance I mean. Just do it. And hurray if I can keep this NEET life.”
“Like I said, the thing I am most concerned about is you keeping that NEET life!! Since it’s you, I know that you must have thought about this properly though.....I know...”
“Eh?”
As Tifalycia blabbered non-stop without thinking, Reiji raised his face as if feeling troublesome...
“Rather, you only have one choice in the current situation.”
His eyes narrowed sharply.
“Are you in any position to be suspecting it?”
“.....Uu.”
Tifalycia was pressured into lowering her voice, and she analyzed the current situation again.

It’s true that before she could guess the real intentions of 「Sirena」, 「Liberator」 itself would be gone.
However──
As if to cut off her thoughts from rampaging again, Reiji spoke lazily.
“I dunno what’s making you feel so insecure. Wasn't the idea of forming an alliance your's? Did you make the suggestion without any confidence in it? Or ── are you scared what might happen when it is actually implemented?”
“──”
A teasing tone on purpose.
Those words were exactly what he would say, and they deeply impaled Tifalycia’s chest.
.....That’s it.
In order for 「Liberator」 to survive, they could only use the alliance method.
It was suggested by none other than Tifalycia herself, and it should have received Reiji’s acknowledgement.
In the end, what Tifalycia felt insecure about was not the alliance itself, but having 「Sirena」 as the other party.
Controlling water currents, using the magic 『Resonance』 to synchronize the feelings and minds of the people of the same race, living in the sea city, a race that was fundamentally different from Tifalycia, a mixed blood between the 「Elf」 and the 「Infirma」.
Taigoubou nonchalantly requested to form an alliance at her territory.
At the sea city, a place that she could not even imagine, were they truly going to form an alliance?
No, could Tifalycia have a proper diplomacy in the first place──
“The king of 「Liberator」 is you, do you understand? Tifalycia.”
At Reiji’s provocations, Tifalycia raised her face.
The not so many servants. And ── the not so few citizens of 「Infirma」.

The one who would be deciding their fate was none other than Tifalycia herself.
In that case.
“Be it the country of 「Sirena」 or whatnot.....I will take them on, hold my ground ── and bring back victory.”
Reiji showed an evil smile to the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 who had gathered her resolve and looked straight forward.
◇◆◇
After Tifalycia had exited Reiji’s room.
“──Why did you...not tell her? Master.”
Leu entered through the door instead of appearing from the shadow on this rare occasion and asked him.
Reiji turned around on his bed, and spoke while scrolling through his tablet.
“Hmm? What are you talking about?”
“About the alliance.”
Alliance?”
“Master should have been working on the alliance.”
Leu continued without pause, Reiji hit his hand as if only realizing now.
“Ah, about that huh.”
Before the **Heroic War** ── the system during **Pledged War**.
The 『Race Flag』 that was enchanted with the magic that recognized everyone as a single race. By exchanging this 『Race Flag』, it forcefully removes the fence between races, and establishes an alliance by making use of the principle of carrying on the **Pledged War** as the same race.
Reiji had known about that alliance system ── beforehand.
“Even so, Master pretended to not know in front of that child.”
“Did I?”
“Yes.”
Seeing Reiji pretending to the end, Leu continued to ask.

“Why?”
“.....Even if you ask me why. There’s no real reason.”
“Why ── did you pretend not to know before that child?”
Leu had climbed onto the bed unknowingly, and she inquired seriously.
“Please tell me.”
Pure...curiosity.
Clanleu Shimishika, a girl that emphasized on satisfying her desire for knowledge above anything else, asked.
Facing that unfazed straightforward gaze, Reiji sighed in resignation and spoke as he switched off the screen of his tablet.
“It’s circulation, just circulation.”
“.....Circulation?”
“It doesn’t really have to be an interactive conversation between us, but just encouraging active co-dependence is good enough. Basically, those who are used to spoon feeding will stop thinking on their own. Someone who is in an environment where there is another party who has all the knowledge they need and is always given the most optimum solution, will become useless.”
The weak who continued to stay weak would not become strong.
To receive aid ── the weak would turn away from the fact that they were given aid.
“Therefore, giving them a moderate sense of fulfilment for having a different idea than the other party, the sense of superiority that she was better than the other party, and the sense of satisfaction that she could do it alone were necessary. Otherwise she would have just become passive, a puppet just waiting for instructions to carry out.”
“.....Not only to receive, but also becoming able to provide.....that is...circulation.”
“Well, of course that’s a case by case scenario. Since I have obtained a result better than my expectations ── there’s no reason to stop it, right?”

What Reiji thought of as he snickered was probably the [Authority] a few days ago.
During that [Authority], Tifalycia delivered a speech that even he was not expecting.
That kind of effect.....believing in the potential of Tifalycia's growth, Reiji pretended not to know about it.
"....."
"What is it now? Ah, I think you already know, but don't tell her ok? Since that will make it meaningless."
As Reiji spoke feeling troublesome, Leu made a small sigh.
".....Master is incredible after all."
"Ain't I? Ain't I? You can praise me more."
"Really.....really wonderful. Always seeing ahead. I have never seen anyone as farsighted as Master."
"Un un.....that should be enough?"
"Really ── makes me want to kill you."
".....Like I said, what's with saying something so disturbing at times like these?"
".....?"
"Don't '?' me. Your occasional serious speech scares me."
Seeing Reiji's face twitching, Leu slowly blinked.
"Among feelings, the strongest are love and hate. Loving and hating hold the same value.....do they not?"
"They do not. They do not no matter how you think about it."
"Different sense of values."
"That's not the issue here.....Rather, can you not discreetly squeeze into my bed?"
"Different sense of values."
"What other sense of value can there be regarding this huh!?"
Reiji raised his voice, while Leu continued without any sense of guilt.
".....Just...co-sleeping."
"Haa? co-sleeping?"

“The literal meaning of it. I won’t...use my hands.”
“You will be using things other than your hands then.....! Mainly things like the cloth, the cloth or the cloth.”
“I won’t. I won’t do anything sexual, I promise.”
Leu took off her robe to prove her words, folded it properly and put it below the bed, then dived into the futon again.
“.....No, you only increased your degree of exposure.”
“Just for today, please.”
Those words were one-sided as usual, but sincerity accompanied them.
“Master is...wonderful.”
“──Ah?”
“I love the wonderful Master. That alone...is enough. I...thought as such.....It should have been enough, but when I see Master thinking about that child ── I feel a little...insecure.”
Such a whisper was added on later.
Leu covered herself up to her mouth with the futon, and gazed at Reiji.
“Probably...jealousy.”
Revealing it did not cause any ripple in her emotion.
That expressionless face seemed somehow different from the usual.
“────Haa, it’s an incomprehensible feeling to me.”
Hearing Reiji immediately conclude as so and shrug his shoulders, Leu closed her eyes.
“.....That’s just like...my Master.”
When she felt convinced and was going to come out of the futon ── the light went off.
“Eh.”
“Absolutely...don’t make a move.”
Reiji said in a blunt manner, crawled back into the futon, back facing Leu.

“.....Even though I don’t understand it, it’s not good to leave it alone. We should make the unknown become known. It is necessary to keep incomprehensible feelings as samples close by, to actively learn from.....Well, so ── just for today.”
Those words were softly whispered.
“.....Un.”
Leu nodded as if chewing those words.
“Absolutely...won’t make a move ── just for today.”
“No, that’s not the point!?”
Reiji reflexively retorted, while Leu just smiled.
“Good night. My...Master.”
She closed her eyes, satisfied.
“───Ah. There is one thing I’m curious about though.”
She immediately opened her eyes, and got up in the darkness.
“You really are a ‘my pace’ type huh.....”
Reiji sighed as the mood was spoiled, while Leu tilted her head and spoke.
“The alliance with 「Sirena」. What are Master’s real thoughts about it?”
At that critical question, the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 snickered.
“That’s something...you should know about already──”
The princess of 「Strega」 opened her eyes wide.
◆◇◆
“Yah yah, I’m so happy♪ So happy♪”
On top of the gigantic elk that was ten times the normal size.
Reiji, Tifalycia, and Leu were sitting at a safe distance from the excited Taigoubou while also being cautious of her.
Speaking of how they ended up in that particular situation──
Taigoubou had arrived riding her elk the day before. After Tifalycia and co told her that they would go ahead with the talk regarding the alliance, her eyes started sparkling.
“Oh yay!! Thank you! Please treat us well from now on♪”

“No, umm, we have not accepted the alliance yet.....”
“Eh? But then, you are thinking of going ahead with it though, right?”
“.....That’s...true, however...”
“Then it’s the same thing♪ Anyway, let’s get going to the Republic of Water Palace (Country of 「Sirena」)!”
“Hah.....then with Leu-san’s 『Adjacent Darkness』...”
“Impossible.”
“Eh?”
Tifalycia did not think that she would be rejected and blinked her eyes in surprise, while Leu stroked the moving black robe.
“This child can only move between places it has been to before.”
“I.....I see.”
To think that there was such a condition.....
Rather, she had been moving around as she pleased until now. Just how much had she been travelling around the world?
“However, then, how do we go——”
As if to cover Tifalycia’s mouth, Taigoubou happily swung her fishing rod.
“It’s alright, it’s alright. This child can become twenty times bigger so let’s ride on top of her together♪ Let’s chat about a lot of things in the sky.”
“Eh.....In the sky...is it.....”
“Heeh, we’re going to fly there?”
Reiji unexpectedly showed interest, so they went ahead with Taigoubou’s plan.
The elk that seemed capable of only letting a single person ride enlarged multiple times its size in an instant at her master, Taigoubou’s call.
He frowned at the similar sensation of touching a horse but got used to it soon.
Without wings like that of a dragon, the elk that could only have been floating using some form of magic principles, was running through

the wind. Tifalycia could feel the sensation of flying spread throughout her skin as they got further and further away from Tistel Castle, she forgot about the little suspicion she held earlier and muttered on reflex.
“I-Incredible.....”
Leaving aside the dragons that flew in the sky, or those who were living in the floating continent above the sky — the 「El Blanche」, to an 「Elf」 and 「Infirma」 mixed-blood like Tifalycia, such an experience was originally unimaginable.
“To think that...there would be a day when I could fly in the sky.....”
Words such as moving were not sufficient to express her current feelings.
The unknown feeling caused her hands to tremble—
“Why don’t you try saying those things after letting go of my hand?” Reiji pointed out blatantly.
Tifalycia noticed that she was subconsciously grabbing onto Reiji’s sleeve, and let go of it in a panic.
“N-No, th-this is because I was a little insecure, or rather.....th-that’s right, preparation for what-ifs — Hii.”
A remarkably strong wind blew past her, and Tifalycia ended up hugging Reiji’s arm on reflex.
“They are touching me.”
“.....”
Reiji spoke plainly while snickering, Tifalycia separated again, and immediately grabbed his sleeve once more.
The feeling of floating as they were flying in the sky was very refreshing and interesting.
However, apart from that, the unique insecurity of not feeling the ground beneath her feet caused her to seek for things that would make her feel more secure, against her own will.
That thing being Reiji.....surely it was because the aforementioned NEET was behaving rather calmly, to the point of detestable.

That’s right, that must be it. There is no reason other than this ──
Tifalycia tried to convince herself.
“──!? Kya.”
The Black robe suddenly coiled around her.
“Wh-What──”
Tifalycia looked towards the owner of the robe ── and...
“With this, you don’t have to worry about falling down.”
Even though she was expressionless as usual, she could feel an intimidating air from her somehow.
“Th.....Thank you...very much.....?”
“No need. It isn’t for your sake.”
Leu turned away, and Tifalycia continued with a slightly confused tone.
“Umm.....thank you for going through the trouble, but I cannot move my body like this.....”
With even her arms coiled up, she really could not move at all.
However, Leu decided to ignore that.
“Hey──”
“──Kyahahaha.”
When she was about to complain again, Taigoubou suddenly started laughing after seeing the exchange between Tifalycia and co.
“I see♪ The three of you have that kind of relationship♪”
She nodded as if she understood everything, and covered her mouth with her hand while snickering like Reiji.
“The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 is also a womanizer huh.”
“.....I can see where your misunderstanding comes from, but it’s troublesome to explain so I will leave it alone.”
Reiji spoke bluntly, causing Taigoubou to puff her cheeks in dissatisfaction.
“Eh, come on, join in! Let’s have a fun conversation!”
She made exaggerated gestures as she spoke.
“Or is it that ── you are worried about leaking intel?”

Unexpectedly.
She spoke with a chilling tone.
“.....”
The **Destiny** of the **Hero** Taigoubou that she had no intention of hiding...
Was just about to pressure Tifalycia, when she suddenly burst into laughter again without a worry.
“If that’s the case, then it’s a needless worry♪ Since...not only 「Liberator」, but we too have no intention of fighting against the other races in the first place.”
Taigoubou shrugged her shoulders and raised both of her hands as if surrendering, Tifalycia muttered in surprise.
“No intention of fighting against other races.....?”
“Yes. That’s the same motto as 「Liberator」, right?”
“.....「Sirena」 should have fought against 「Beastia」 in a **Heroic War** just recently though.”
“That was initiated by the other party. Rather, there has not been a single **Heroic War** that was initiated by us.”
“.....Even if it was initiated by the other party...The fact still remains that you accepted it.”
“That’s true. However, no matter which **Heroic War** it was, we were in a situation where we could not refuse, you know? See, it's like how the water in a bowl that was spilled could never be collected back, if we started once, there would be a second time, then we would no longer be able to retain our credibility. We have properly protected that. Leu should be well informed on that part, right?”
“.....”
Did she know about the special trait of the 『Adjacent Darkness』 Leu used, and even the habit of using it to collect intel──?
That fact caused the black robe to form into a sharp edge.
“Hmm. This is enough.”

Reiji put his hand on Leu's shoulder, and looked ahead as he scratched his head.
"Are you an idiot? We are going to form an alliance with them, so there's no point in worrying about any leak in intel. Rather, the matter about 「Sirena」 never starting a **Heroic War** is known to anyone who is a **Ruler** class."
"Eh."
".....Anyone apart from a **Ruler** that lacks in studying."
"P-Please don't purposely fix your statement!"
"Eh what? **Ruler**-sama that lacks in studying."
"Uu.....Kuh.....I will admit that.....I am lacking in studies.....but."
"Well, it's normal that you don't know since you just became a **Ruler** recently."
"──!? Then why purposely....."
"Do you really want me to say it?"
"──No, you don't have to!!"
"Well, because of that, the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 is a little lacking in the head, so if you want to have a fun conversation, can you talk about those instead?"
"Head....."
"Mu. I wanted to talk about things like Reiji-chi's love story or the like though."
".....I am also interested in that."
"Oi Leu."
Seeing Leu's serious expression, Reiji retorted, before sighing and then said.
"I said this before, but I really have no interest in talking about things like love or affection. It's useless to expand the topic in that direction."
"Hmm? Is there any reason for that?"
"──Making it look as if you agree, but leading the topic towards the direction you want. I won't fall for that, you know?"

Taigoubou asked as her mouth changed into a ‘ω’ shape, Reiji instantly replied.
“Master, please do tell in detail what lust is to you.”
At the question asked by Leu question who appeared to be even more passionate than Taigoubou, Reiji spoke with a stiff face.
“Whose side are you really on!”
“Aha.”
Seeing Reiji retort bluntly on reflex, Taigoubou burst out in laughter as she couldn’t endure it any longer.
“Hah, seriously funny.....Well, since we are going to get along afterwards, we can stop with the meaningless probing. Alright, just as Reiji-chi suggested, let’s talk about that.”
“So she says. Good for you, Tifalycia.”
“Are you asking me to continue from there!?”
Tifalycia complained about how she was totally left out of the conversation all the while and yet the topic was suddenly directed to her, Reiji returned her with an expression of ‘What is this girl complaining about?’.
“Ha? Isn’t that how it is supposed to be? I’m not really interested. Rather, who do you think I am?”
“.....「L-Liberator」...”
“No, I am a NEET.”
“I know that!!”
Reiji cut in a reply while Tifalycia did the same with teary-eyes.
She knew. She knew, but ── she also could not accept it regardless.
Reiji seemed to know about the things Tifalycia was thinking, so he nonchalantly changed the topic, and made an exaggerated yawn.
“Fuwa.....Actually, I didn’t get much sleep yesterday so I’m sleepy. Here, reading this will give you an understanding about the historical and fictional Taigoubou character.”
Saying so, he pushed his tablet to Tifalycia.
“.....Eh? Eh?”

“Well then, I’m going to sleep. Good night.”
“.....Ha? H-here?”
Tifalycia asked in a confused tone.
“.....”
“He's already asleep.”
“Isn’t that too fast!?”
It seemed that this NEET **Hero** had a talent for sleeping.
Even though he could not use the **Realtà** that a **Hero** should normally possess, he excelled in useless things.....!
“Aha, Reiji-chi is really a my-pace person. So then, what does TifaTifa want to ask me??”
Taigoubou got closer while saying so, in response Tifalycia drew back and pondered.
She could not deny that Reiji was a hopeless NEET, but at the same time, he would not take meaningless actions.
.....Or so...it should be. She would like to...believe that. It would be great...if that the case.
(No No No No.)
She would not be able to advance if she started to suspect him.
Tifalycia lowered her gaze onto the tablet Reiji passed her.
On it were extremely short sentences.
『Taigoubou. As the tactician of the emperor in the ancient era, left behind various anecdotes and military art books.』
『Or, riding on elk and chasing after evil gods, fighting against them and sealing them.』
.....J-Just that much?
To think that he could say he summarized Taigoubou’s biography with just that much information.
“.....”
No ── it was necessary to apply reverse thinking.
What if that much information was sufficient?

Tales of **Heroes** were as many as the stars. However, what if he had judged the information that Tifalycia would need right now was just this much, and the rest were unnecessary...
Tifalycia closed her eyes, and took a deep breath.
Reiji seemed to have created an environment for Tifalycia to talk with Taigoubou.
That meant, there should be something that only Tifalycia could ask her, or something that he hoped Tifalycia would ask.
If he was truly not interested in Taigoubou and was determined that there was no value in talking, then he would not have created the opportunity for Tifalycia to ask questions in the first place. If it was something Reiji could ask, then he would have done so already.
──Then, what was it that only Tifalycia could ask, that he hoped Tifalycia would ask?
Tifalycia. The [Absence] between the 「Elf」 and the 「Infirma」.
What only the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 could ask──
“Hmmm? TifaTifa?”
Perhaps due to being in thought for too long, Taigoubou tilted her head and shifted closer, Tifalycia opened her eyes.
“You had no intention of fighting against other races from the start.....is what you said, why is that?”
A simple question.
It appeared to be a fairly natural question to ask.
“Mmhmm? There’s no big reason for that. Rather, TifaTifa can also imagine right? 「Sirena」 is──”
“No, I am asking you, as an individual ── the **Hero** Taigoubou’s opinion.”
Tifalycia stared straight at the girl who blinked her eyes in surprise for a brief moment.
Taigoubou, famed as the tactician that contributed wise suggestions to the king at the time.
However, she was also a **Hero**.

Like the incitement during [Authority], the **Heroes** more or less considered themselves as the best.
If not, they would not have responded to a summon that was about grasping the dominance over this world.
In that case, even if she was a advocate of peace, and actually provided suggestions towards that end, she should still have some fundamental desire deep inside.
Of course, it would be best if there were none. Tifalycia prayed to herself.
If she truly wanted to avoid fighting with other races ── that would be similar to Tifalycia's wish in a sense.
Or it could even be said to be the ideal that Tifalycia wanted to achieve from now on.
"Fumu, I think I kind of understand what TifaTifa is thinking of, but it's really just what it means literally, you know? **Hero** must have similarity to the summoner ── you know of such a rule, right? The miko of 「Sirena」, also the **Ruler**, seems to be a girl who thinks the same as me."
Therefore.
"If I am to answer why I don't intend to fight against other races from the start ── I will answer like this."
Closing her eyes, holding her hands at her chest, Taigoubou swung her fishing rod, and spoke with a serious voice that was in contrast to her frivolous appearance.
"We, from the bottom of our hearts ── wish for everyone to feel happiness."
The **Hero** of 「Sirena」 added a cheerful smile at the end.
"....."
Tifalycia was accidentally lost her words.
She did not want to rebut, she wanted to agree with that ideal, she was unable to hide that desire from showing.

Seeing Tifalycia holding her hands to her chest as if to hide her wavering, Taigoubou suddenly changed her tone...
“Well, even though we have such thoughts, because there’s no other race that thought the same way, we still end up getting caught up in fights as a result, and just keep getting beaten up♪”
It’s hard to do this well. She shrugged her shoulder and glanced at Tifalycia, Leu, and Reiji in order.
“That’s why, I thought of working hard together with you people (「Liberator」) who have similar thoughts, and at the same time possess some interesting strength.....oyo?”
Along with Taigoubou looking down at the end of her sentence, the Elk started to descended slowly.
“We have arrived while we were chatting♪ Did anyone forget anything? Let’s prepare for landing♪”
Taigoubou stood up and smiled cheerfully, Tifalycia looked at her as if looking at something that shone brightly.

Chapter 3 - NEET, Warmly Welcomed

Tiflaycia and co landed in an area on the northern part of the Zestis Continent.
It was a place with pure white beach spread out across the clear ocean, called the Arielle Coast.
The bright sunlight from the vast blue sky was reflected by the fine sand at their feet, as well as the ocean spread before their eyes ── the Serelantif Sea, made it a truly dazzling scene.
Tifalycia did not expect that she would visit an unexplored land such as this that she had only ever seen in maps so far.
Because this place was──
“Umm, this is.....in the territory of 「Beastia」, right?”
I see, she had proven it in person that it would certainly not be counted as an invasion if she entered another race's territory without any malicious intent, but──
The Country of 「Sirena」, Republic of the Water Palace, should be located at the Zeganda Sea, Northwest of the Titalia Continent which was Southwest of Zestis Continent, or to be more precise, at the Heiji Archipelago and the water surrounding it.
The Serelantif and the Zeganda Sea were divided by the Teru Strait and the Fraig Continent on the west and the east boundaries respectively, and was quite far from where they were at.
“Nihii, that’s what you think?”

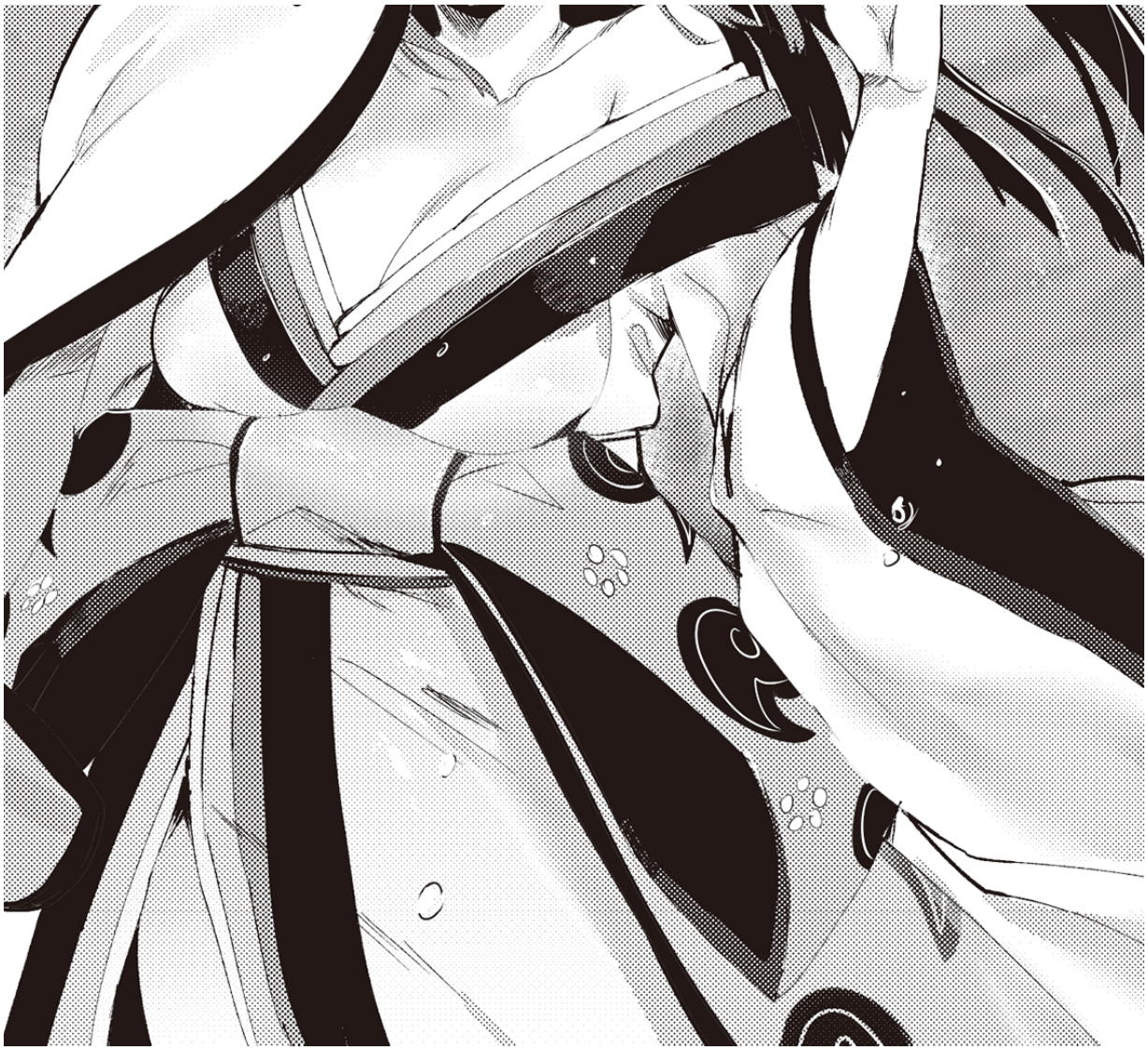
Taigoubou raised her index finger and answered Tifalycia's question with a giggle.
"Now, here comes the surprise. Actually, every place within the ocean is connected♪"
Saying so, she swung the fishing rod she held in her right hand.
As the hook entered the ocean, it stretched and glowed, forming a magic formation.
Soon, the faintly glowing magic formation started glowing brighter ──and a door big enough for a single person to pass through at a time materialized.
Tifalycia swallowed her breath at that clearly abnormal phenomenon.
"I-Is this the **Realtà** of the **Hero** of 「Sirena」.....?"
"Ah, no no, what I did is called Senjutsu♪"
"Sen...jutsu?"
"Yes. Well, what I used depends on that child and this thing, so I can't really do anything on a much grander scale."
Seeing Taigoubou swinging her fishing rod around, Reiji spoke as if it was nothing.
"That fishing rod is 『Treasure・Deity-bane Whip』 after all huh."
"Oh, as expected of Reiji-chi! Bingo♪"
".....Senjutsu and **Realtà** are two separate things. That's also another very troublesome matter."
"What do you.....? ──Uh why are you going back to sleep!?"
"You.....didn't I already say that I am sleepy? I will have you give me a piggyback ride if you disturb me again."
"What's with that temper?"
"Alright alright, let's go now♪"
Leaving behind Tifalycia and co who were bickering around, Taigoubou passed through the door with light steps.
Republic of the Water Palace was most likely beyond there.
However, even though she understood that fact, it was not easy to take a step forward──

In front of Tifalycia who had stopped her feet and gulped while thinking about such things...
“Fuwa.....so sleepy.”
Reiji entered the light without hesitation.
“Eh.”
“.....As expected of Master.”
Leu entered right after.
“Eh.....eh.....Ehhhh!?”
Won’t you normally...be more c-cautious or nervous about these type of things.....!?
This was making Tifalycia who was the only one hesitating look like an idiot──
“Hurry up my scaredy-cat master.”
Reiji’s grinning face showed up from the other side, causing Tifalycia to turn red in embarrassment.
“I’m not s──scaredy-cat!”
She forcefully took large strides and walked through the door of light in one breath.
She closed her eyes at the moment she crossed the door, then opened them again.
After doing so, what spread out before Tifalycia’s eyes were──
“──Heh?”
An enormous work of art between water and light.
That was what Tifalycia felt.
Looking up, the ocean had replaced the sky, and the various big and small fishes that swam around replaced the birds and the dragons.
Returning her gaze to the front, a huge arch-shaped gate made of translucent blue using unknown principles and a number of elegantly crafted pillars were placed geometrically, then...
『Welcome!! To the Underwater City Watatsumi Palace!!』
The synchronized welcoming came from a neat line of beautiful girls wearing revealing ── swimsuit-like outfits at the front.

The line was split into two, and from the center a gorgeous woman appeared.
Naturally, the girls greeted the woman in the center, Taigoubou lightly hopped towards her and stood next to her.
“—Welcome~ Guests from 「Liberator」.”
The woman wearing a unique outfit different from the girls around her lowered her head politely, and gracefully smiled.
“I am the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」, Seire Euphonia~ Pleased to meet you.”

◇◆◇◆◇

Passing through the huge arc that made one wonder about its construction method, what appeared before them was an even more impactful scenery than the entrance.
The blue lighting shone onto a space that could be considered wide even in the ocean.
The large lake at the center was surrounded by neat pavements, with boats occasionally passing by.
Neat rows of pillars stood along the path, fountains were set in fixed distances, monuments that would create currents when the magical devices fixed in them were activated decorated the place.



Gondola-like boats passed through the canals that were flowing through the center of the streets, a pair of 「Sirena」 couple — or perhaps sisters, were chatting happily.
Houses made of stone were built in a uniform theme, completely matching the scenery, clearly giving the visitors a pleasant view.
Looking closer at the pedestrians, there were fin-like attachments on the area where ears were supposed to be, indicating that they were 「Sirena」 — more importantly...
“Wh.....th-this is.....”
Reiji knew a place that looked just like this.

“Disney S○a!?[1]”
“.....Dizu.....? Ha.....?”
Tifalycia eyes became dots when even **Idea Language** could not translate that term, while Reiji held her shoulders while ignoring the surrounding gazes.
“Don’t you feel anything strange about this {Built with a certain Venice as an image. Welcoming couples who cannot afford the real thing here for dates♡} advocating area!?”
“Da.....E-Ehem. Not really, is there anything strange about this? Tourist attractions.....like this...are not just limited to the country of 「Sirena」, or so I heard.”
“Seriously.....Other places also have such amusement park like areas like this? Riajuus are the strongest even in Another World huh?”
“Ah, no. Something like this entire city having a single style is.....”
Taking a glance at Leu, she also nodded.
“I have also never seen something like this before.”
“.....Aah, just here only huh. There’s no way there would be Huis ○en Bosch[2] or ○SJ[3] as well.”
Seeing Reiji convincing himself with some mysterious logic and feeling relieved on his own, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 walking next to him ── Seire Euphonia smiled in a refined manner.
“This is a good place~ Watatsumi Palace. There is no need for air if it was only for 「Sirena (us)」 to live, but when we were making it this way in consideration for the other races, it became fun. Afterwards, just as you can see for yourself, it became a district built with entertainment as its priority~”
“Well, simply put, it gives an ‘Everyone is Welcome♪’ feeling♪”
Seire smiled elegantly and Taigoubou laughed heartily.
Seeing the two of them who bore no resemblance laughing in completely different ways, Tifalycia spoke with a fuzzy feeling.

“.....Umm, everyone seems to be strolling in bliss.”
“Right, right!?”
Taigoubou got in with the topic.
She swung her fishing rod and spoke without hiding her excitement.
“We are actually very blissful♪ It doesn't matter even though we lost to 「Beastia」 just recently you know? Isn’t that incredible?”
Tifalycia could only think of that as incredible.
The fact that 「Sirena」 constantly lost in **Heroic Wars** was known by all, as long as there were actually people fighting, there would probably not be any citizens who did not know that.
However, as far as Tifalycia could see, she did not think that anyone was feeling insecure about the future of the race, or unsatisfied towards the **Ruler** and the **Hero**.
When they saw Seire or Taigoubou, they would wave their hands with smiling faces and request to shake hands after they got closer, not a single one showed any grudging glare or spat out profanities.
“It sounds like self-praise, but ── I believe that this is quite an eden.”
Tifalycia was almost going to agree with that.
Certainly, the scene before her eyes was wonderful.
Tifalycia peeked at Reiji on reflex, and was surprised to see that the **Hero** had a cold expression along with a mocking smile.
“Un un, it’s certainly incredible, but ── what about taking a closer look at the surrounding?”
He nonchalantly whispered such words.
Tifalycia inspected the surrounding once again.
And noticed a certain fact.
“There are.....a lot of women.”
When she looked at Reiji again, the NEET was already dozing off while walking.
“Hey, please don’t fall asleep!”
“Seriously, what do you want? I told you I’m sleepy.”
“Didn’t Reiji tell me!? To look at the surrounding!”

“Kuh──”
“Aye~ Allow me.”
The person who cut into their conversation politely was Seire who was walking at a distance, not too close yet not too far.
“Just as you may have observed, we are hermaphrodites ── meaning we possess the functionality of a male~ So the male does not exist in our race.”
“Male.....does not exist?”
“To be precise, while we can turn into male when it’s necessary, we are fundamentally girls during normal times. You see, boys are hot-headed, so even though we can use 『Resonance』 to relay our intentions easier than other races, there would still be unnecessary conflicts, right?”
Taigoubou casually provided an explanation, and Seire sent a meaningful gaze at them.
“Of course, when servicing a girl, we will switch to the other half~ so feel free to ask.”
“Eh.....ah, yes.....”
Tifalycia tilted her head as she did not understand Seire's intentions who raised her eyebrow, while Reiji endured his yawn and spoke as if he could not bear with this anymore.
“Don’t just nod when you don’t even understand it.”
“I u-understood that.”
“Heh? She just said 『We will change into boys when providing erotic service for girls so feel free to ask♡』 though?”
“──Eh...please save the trouble!”
As Tifalycia took back her words in a panic, Seire covered her mouth with the sleeve of her kimono-like attire and giggled.
“Oh what a cute child~ Leave it to me, I will make you feel good~”
As the **Ruler** got even closer and blew at her ear, Tifalycia took a step back on reflex.
“──You can accept the service. You closet pervert.”

Leu suddenly spoke.
“Who’s a c...clo──”
“Ahha, TifaTifa is the closet type huh? 「Liberator」 doesn’t need to worry about an heir then♪”
“N-No.”
As Tifalycia and others continued such nonsensical chattering, Reiji sighed.
“──Isn’t it impressive~? My country.”
Unknowingly, Seire got closer to Reiji instead of Tifalycia and spoke with a brilliant smile.
“We are different from others, we have no problem regarding shortage of resources and food~ While on the other hand, our territory is small so we seek happiness amidst the living~ That’s the country I have made~”
“It’s not such a complex story though.”
Taigoubou got around to the other side of Reiji and continued.
“What is considered governing a country, or what kind of country is wonderful? ──The answer is simple. You just have to think of it as one is all, all is one.”
“──『Six Secret Teachings』.....Civil Strategy huh.”
“OOOOOOH♪ I’m so happy that you can tell immediately♪”
As one of the Seven Military Classics, 『Six Secret Teachings』 was a super famous military manual that future generations who were related to military tactics field, all read.
Everything in it was written through Taigoubou’s guidance.
“I have been researching those the moment I knew that the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 was you.”
“Aww ehhe...I’m embarrassed.”
“.....By the way, do you know the sayings ‘self-praise’ and ‘acting on one’s own interest’?”
“They are good sayings.”
Taigoubou laughed without a shame, and Seire continued.

“Seriously~ it’s a simple matter. The other races just can’t comprehend~”
Towards the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 who let out a charming sigh...
“Hmm, not a trace of credibility.”
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 spoke with a carefree tone.
“Especially the point of having no problem with food and resources. Isn’t that really pushing it a bit too far?”
“Hmm, it isn’t, you know?”
Taigoubou answered immediately.
“Since this entire ocean is the property of 「Sirena」♪”
Seeing the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 spreading her arms to indicate the vastness, Reiji replied monotonously.
“Ah-I see-The ocean is really big and wide huh. Incredible huh.”
As he continued to praise without a shred of sincerity, Taigoubou puffed up her cheeks cutely.
“Muu.....Reiji-chi totally didn’t believe me right? Even though it’s the truth.”
“That’s because your resource issue is also very important to us, you know? Even if you say that this entire ocean is yours, I can’t just say ‘Oh I see’ and believe it.”
Reiji smirked and expressed with his eyes.
To show them proof of it if she wanted them to believe her.
The proof that the entire ocean belonged to 「Sirena」——
Such an unreasonable demand.
“——At Arielle Coast.”
The **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 turned to the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 and spoke.
“Lucky for you that he did not make you piggyback him~”
“.....Eh?”
Ignoring Tifalycia who was confused about the words suddenly spoken to her for a moment, Seire looked at Reiji.

“Ryo-chan’s Senjutsu is quite misleading~ I also thought that the Deity-bane Whip is her **Realtà** when I first saw it~”
Arielle Coast. Senjutsu. Deity-bane Whip. ──Piggyback.
Those phrases were...
“──Ah, d-don’t tell me you overheard the conversation back then.....!?”
Seire gracefully smiled at Tifalycia’s deduction.
“No matter how far, 「Sirena (We)」 can tell it as if it’s happening right before our eyes as long as it’s in the ocean~ After all ── the entire ocean is ours~”
Because the entire ocean belonged to 「Sirena」, even the place that were connected to the ocean ── despite being the territory of 「Beastia」, they could find out about everything that was happening there──
“Of course, me finding out about those things is only for the security of 「Sirena」~ I won’t make a move~ What we seek is peace only.”
Seeing Seire calmly concluding so, Taigoubou spoke while giggling.
“Well, 「Sirena」 became like this only after I arrived though.”
“That’s right~ I’m really grateful to Ryo-chan~”
“Hehe, I am top notch when it comes to governing a country despite how I look, ehem.”
Taigoubou put her hands on her waist and puffed out her chest on purpose, Tifalycia spoke with her head lowered.
“.....I believe that...it is definitely...wonderful. Seeing it with my own eyes, I have ascertained that. You ── the 「Sirena」 are all truly blissful. And if that happiness can be obtained without fighting against other races, or even building a friendly relationship──”
I wish we can form an alliance by all means.
As Tifalycia was about to continue with that...
“──Hah, you don’t get it. You totally don’t understand it at all.”
Reiji...
Shrugging his shoulder, he spread out his arms...

Along with a big gesture, he spoke.
“Blissful? Wonderful? Did you think that we should form an alliance by all means if that is the case──? How so?”
Such provocative words, laughter filled with mockery as if looking at idiots, were immediately turned towards the **Ruler** and **Hero** of 「Sirena」.
“If you think that you can deceive me with just this much, it would be a rather big joke.”
Seeing the sarcasm in his words that seemed to be rubbing the other party in the wrong way...
Seire Euphonia closed her eyes, and calmly spoke.
“.....If you have spoken that much, please tell me the reason you think that~”
Seeing that calm atmosphere to the point that it was creepy, Tifalycia who should have been on his side was confused.
“Re.....Reiji?”
Was it really alright to be so aggressive?
As a matter of fact, the citizens of 「Sirena」 seemed to be happy despite losing the **Heroic Wars**, the country was prosperous and also beautiful.
Did he jump to some conclusion or something──
As if completely seeing through how she thought...
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 laughed.
“Ah, everyone definitely looked happy. In fact, doing a national survey will yield a shockingly positive response ── from the 「Sirena」 that is.”
The person who was enlightened by Reiji’s word seemed to be only Leu whose 『Adjacent Darkness』 fluttered.
“What are you saying──”
“So, I haven’t seen any 「Infirma」 around since the start, where are they?”
“──!”

The instant Reiji said so, Tifalycia painfully felt her shortcoming.
At the same time, she understood why Reiji told her to look around.
Ever since the liberation declaration in [Authority], every 「Infirma」 were half enforced to be freed.
Even so, the country of 「Liberator」 that could be said to be built specifically for 「Infirma」 had only a few 「Infirma」 immigrants.
In other words, majority of the 「Infirma」 were in the countries of other races outside 「Liberator」.
Even 「Sirena」 should not be an exception to that.
The movements of the races that Leu had reported about were mostly on the treatment of the 「Infirma」there.
What Reiji urged Tifalycia to realize was also that exact fact.
Feeling that Reiji's point caused the harmonious atmosphere to freeze up, Tifalycia tensed her body.
Then, as if expecting it, Taigoubou giggled and spoke.
"Hmm, if you want to see, I can bring you there."
There wasn't really anything to hide.
Seeing Taigoubou purposely taking on a calm attitude, Tifalycia could not relax her tensed up expression.
Separating from Seire, they followed Taigoubou towards a flight of stairs leading underground.
After continuing down for a while through the narrow passage with exposed rock surfaces, what was ahead of them was a dim and large underground cave that made the prosperous area on the surface seem like a lie.
The light from the surface would not reach this place, but the surface of the rocks itself seemed to be glowing, making the entire place glow pale white.
Reiji and co watched down from the high platform, and saw 「Infirma」many times — many tens of times that of 「Sirena」 moving about under the dim light.

They used the underground flowing stream to wash and cook, tools to carve out the fine details on pillar-like things, and transported the completed ones using carts.
“.....Terrible.”
“Hmm, please don’t misunderstand.”
As if understanding why Tifalycia said so...
Taigoubou quickly interrupted.
“Those people are doing this out of their own will, got it? If you are thinking that we are forcing them using contract or something along those lines, then I’m a little heartbroken.”
“There’s no way──”
Taigoubou’s out of place bright tone caused Tifalycia to refute loudly on reflex.
“I know that already.”
“Reiji.....!?”
Reiji coldly continued while watching the scenery laid out before him.
“Since the liberation declaration during [Authority], the servitude contract between 「Infirma」 and other races has been nullified. In regards to re-establishing contract, the other races absolutely cannot force the 「Infirma」 one-sidedly. Because that declaration is for that specific purpose.”
──Each race, each **Hero** would live and fight with their own judgement and power.
The contract that Reiji had established was probably working even right now.
Therefore, the contract between the other races and 「Infirma」 ── one that inhibited freedom would be impossible.
However ── it would be another story if the 「Infirma」 themselves wanted the contract with the other races.
“Those 「Infirma」 have most likely decided on their own will to form the original servitude contract with the 「Sirena」.”

Like how Leu formed a servitude contract with Reiji, if they wished to form a servitude contract themselves, then they could do anything they liked.
Because that was out of their own free will.
“Why.....such.....even though they finally obtained freedom.”
“Un, TifaTifa would actually say such things huh.”
In replacement of Taigoubou who showed a troubled face, Leu quietly spoke.
“That’s because...even if they obtained freedom...they cannot live on their own.”
Cannot live on their own.
Those words weighed heavily on Tifalycia’s shoulders.
They could just come to the country of 「Liberator」 after they were free ── she could not continue with those words that were stuck at her throat.
What if...
They all actually moved over to Tistel ── the country of 「Liberator」 would collapse.
“Actually, after Reiji-chi’s liberation declaration, me ── Seire as well, told all those people directly. {We will provide some assistance, so do you want to go to the country of 「Liberator」?}. However──”
“{We won’t ask for such a thing. All we want is to live here stably.}
──Is probably something they answered with, right?”
Taigoubou opened her eyes wide in surprise, while Reiji lightly shrugged his shoulders and carried on.
“The psychology of those who have undergone long periods of obedience to authority is so easy to comprehend that there’s no need to even bring up the Milgram Experiment case study.”
“That being said, I think that Reiji-chi actually peeped at this place, right?”
“Rather than doing that kind of pointless thing, securing sleep is better.”

“Uwa, you actually said that it’s pointless♪”
Seeing Taigoubou giggling, Tifalycia enquired without changing her expression.
“Is that...true?”
“Hmm?”
“What Reiji said just now ── Did they really say that?”
“Hmm, if I have to supplement it...{The liberation declaration is troubling} something like that. No really, if you lose it (dignity) once, you can’t get it back. Feels like they live up to their name as the 「Infirma」.”
“──”
Those words were enough to rob away Tifalycia’s thoughts, causing her to stand rooted to the ground.
Tifalycia staggered a few steps, and knelt down ── before that.
“Haa, seriously.”
As Reiji sneered...
He secretly supported Tifalycia’s shoulder.
“Rather, well, I have no intention of liberating the 「Infirma」 using that declaration in the first place.”
As if there was no problem at all, he immediately said so.
“.....Ha?”
Seeing as Tifalycia blankly staring at him with her mouth still wide open with questions on reflex, Reiji ── the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 returned the stare with a rather surprised expression.
“Ah? What? Don’t tell me you actually thought that just that was enough to liberate the 「Infirma」 and build the country of 「Liberator」?”
Seeing Reiji looking at her as if saying ‘how could that be’, Tifalycia was more relieved than angry.
That was because she understood that Reiji was reassuring her with a 『This path is not mistaken』 in that implication.

However, as she did not want him to know that ── she spoke with a trembling voice.
“I──I really thought so!! I admit, I did think like that!! What about it!?”
“Uwa, don’t throw a tantrum.....You seem like you are about to cry.”
Hearing that, Tifalycia noticed that tears had gathered in her eyes, and wiped them away hurriedly, then realized that it was pointless to do that by then, so she swung down her hand with force.
“Geez...Geez...Geez!! What’s with you...What’s wrong with you!? Do you find it fun to play around with me like that!?”
“Eh...un. That’s obviously super fun.”
“Please deny it!!”
She was already desperate.
Even though she understood that the more she shouted the worse it would become, but as she could not stop her tear glands otherwise, her words came out before her thoughts.
“Then what is that declaration during the [Authority], that is also pointless huh!!”
“I never said that it was pointless. Of course that has meaning. Rather, the result of liberating the 「Infirma」 is unrelated, the important thing is the procedure itself.”
“.....Procedure?”
“Is the liberation of the 「Infirma」 the only thing that changed after [Authority]?”
“Ah.....”
Needless to be said, what changed after the [Authority] was not just 「Infirma」.
All the other races had to make a move.
Reiji included all those into the process he spoke of──?
“──That talk, I am also interested in it. Please tell me in details~”
A voice suddenly called out from his back.
Reiji could tell that it was from Seire without turning around, a scheming evil smile flashed on his face as he turned to speak to her.

“Now then? Is there any merit in me having the obligation of telling you? Even though you *aren’t our allies*.”
Hearing Reiji emphasizing those last few words, Seire narrowed her eyes while maintaining her smile.
“.....Such a mean person~”
“──Fu...Kyahha...as expected, Reiji-chi is interesting♪”
Seeing the two meeting eye-to-eye, Taigoubou laughed from the bottom of her heart.
“Isn’t that right? I’m often being told that.”
Reiji laughed a bit to go along with Taigoubou, then continued as if nothing happened.
“So, you two who think that I’m interesting, what’s your objective?”
His smile remained the same.
While his cold gaze pierced the two.
“Don’t tell me you think that you can muddle through with just {We became your fan after that [Authority]!} nonsense?”
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 ── The Good Neighbour (Social Hacker) who was a professional at playing with others’ psychology in the palm of his hand began his verbal attack.
──*When people are met with an unknown situation, their judgement and thinking ability will become dull.*
That would often result in a blank state of emotion, and it would be easy to predict their actions afterwards ── or so was supposed to be the case.
“What are you talking about~?”
Making an alluring gesture of tilting her head, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 gracefully smiled.
“We are sincerely grateful to 「Liberator」 ── to the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 and the **Ruler**~ We thought of expressing our gratitude even if by a little, hence we invited you here~”
“That’s right, I believe that Reiji-chi should understand, we have really tried to convince the 「Infirma」, you know?”

Taigoubou also followed up cheerfully...
“Let’s just treat it as such.”
Reiji did not pursue it any further and closed his eyes.
“But it’s not just that alone, right?”
Opening his eyes again, he folded his arms and calmly continued.
“Let’s take a hundred steps back and assume that you have become our fan after we, 「Liberator」, made our move. Let’s also assume that you really intend to form an alliance with 「Liberator」 that is close to your ideals. I see, what a wonderful story. So, the wonderful lot of you ── when a choice arises, which side will you support, 「Sirena」 or 「Liberator」?”
“.....? That kind of thing, after the alliance──”
“I should have said support earlier. Don’t worry, this question is just to confirm the predetermined answer. By the way, if asked the same question, we will not hesitate to answer with 「Liberator」. We are looking for an alliance for that sake in the first place. Isn’t that obvious?”
“──Then we will choose the same answer~”
So what about it? Seeing Seire was about to continue with that, Reiji smiled frivolously as if the answer was very simple and spoke.
“I know right. In that case, have you noticed that this will cause a contradiction? You said that you will choose the benefit of 「Sirena」 between 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」. Then we shouldn’t form an alliance, should we? Because forming an equivalent alliance with 「Liberator」 will only incur a loss for 「Sirena」.”
“.....Eh?”
Tifalycia could not follow Reiji’s train of thought for an instant and blinked her eyes.
Hence she thought things through again, and the conclusion she arrived at was...
“Please wait a moment, that means──”

“「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」 do not have equivalent standing, leaving aside the difference in races, even a child can understand that.”
Leu quietly spoke.
“Ignoring the difference in standing, if we formed an equivalent alliance, the higher standing race ── 「Sirena」, will incur a loss.”
“By the way, I won’t let you muddle through with an excuse like {I didn’t realize that}, alright? Even if say I allowed you, the moment I pointed out this matter, you will have known this fact. Since you know already, you cannot muddle through this.”
Making a hypothesis.
In the case that two inequivalent races formed an alliance, the superior 「Sirena」 might insist that they did not notice that they were taking a loss, but it would be impossible to use that excuse in the current situation.
Because Reiji had already pointed out that escape route, hence collapsing the path.
And then.
“Well, you girls probably won’t even use the {We never noticed that} escape route. Bringing us here itself is one of your objectives, afterall.”
“Bringing us here is one of their objectives.....?”
“Oi oi, you have to know that immediately. Why have we come all the way here in the first place?”
“That’s.....for the sake of forming an alliance ── Ah.”
As she spoke, she realized at that moment.
Going to the country of 「Sirena」 for the sake of forming an alliance, there was no logic behind such an action.
That was only an excuse for Reiji and co to receive their hospitality as gratitude.
“Sight, voice, words, expressions, stride length, gesture.....creating a friendly atmosphere on the surface using all that, trying to mislead

us away from the core issue. Unfortunately, that's my area of expertise."
Reiji showed a ferocious smile, and pointed with his finger.
"Not for 「Liberator」, rather you are forming an alliance for 「Sirena」, right? And then allying with 「Liberator」 does not have a single benefit for you all. Despite that, why have you called us to your turf to form an alliance? What are your true objectives?"
Lethal questions flew out like bullets.
The bullet that peeled away the virtuous mask of the 「Sirena」, they robbed the **Ruler** and the **Hero** completely of their expressions.
All of a sudden, emotion seeped in as if a taut string snapped.
"Reiji-chi thinks that ── this is enough to corner us?"
Showing a troubled smile, Taigoubou shrugged her shoulders.
"There are benefits for 「Sirena」 to ally with 「Liberator」. Of course, we understand the matter about inequivalent standing, we also know that forming an equivalent alliance will incur loss on our side. By the way, we intended to discuss the details of that matter after we have formed the alliance, you know?"
"──That's right~ The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 is just reading too much into it~ Us calling 「Liberator」 here is really to express our gratitude and welcome you~"
Seire looked troubled, and then depressedly lowered her eyebrows, Taigoubou then said "Well, it can't be helped regarding the lack of trust" as if to follow up for Reiji.
The atmosphere changed to as if Reiji had jumped to conclusions and misunderstood something──
".....Not gonna work. Totally not gonna work."
As if to destroy that facade from the root, the NEET laughed, and laughed harder.
"Did you think that those petty tricks of yours will work?{There are benefits for an alliance} {Understand the matter about inequivalent standing} {Know that forming an equivalent alliance will incur loss on

「Sirena」} {Intend to discuss the details of that matter after we have formed the alliance} ── Those clauses just now, do you see any intention of forming an equivalent alliance with 「Liberator」 there which is at an inequivalent standing?”
“───Eh?”
Tifalycia went through those again with Reiji’s pointer.
{There are benefits for both sides by forming an alliance}
──However, the detailed contents were not touched on.
{Understand the inequivalent standing of the two}
──It was only comprehension.
{Know that forming an equivalent alliance will incur loss on 「Sirena」}
──It was only stating the fact, but it was never mentioned about them wanting to form an equivalent alliance.
{Intend to discuss the details of that matter after we have formed the alliance}
──It’s only after forming the alliance, and the actual contents were concealed.
“───Never...mentioned.”
Taigoubou only mentioned things that sounded good to the listener, leading the other party to think 『Since you have said so, you probably want to form an equivalent alliance』, but did not speak any concrete words to confirm about forming an equivalent alliance. She only said things that she could get away with.
“Muu, you are nitpicking, or rather twisting the meaning. I didn’t say that with such inten──”
“Then can you make a vow?”
As if knowing that she would say that, Reiji cut her off and continued.
“Let’s see.....for example, the 「El Blanche」 suddenly demanded a single-sided annexation.”
“.....Ha?”
“.....「El Blanche」?”

At the sudden appearance of the name of a third race, not only Taigoubou and Seire, even Tifalycia and Leu blinked their eyes blankly.
“There’s no deep meaning in it. Doesn’t matter if it’s 「Beastia」, or 「Elf」, or 「Dragonne」. Well, if the self-proclaimed 『World Administrator』, 「El Blanche」, saying something like {Noblesse Oblige is saving the weak}, would probably want to save the 「Sirena」 that is considered as the weak one in the current situation, right? Of course, suitable sacrifices have to be paid.”
Once annexed under the absolute power known as the 「El Blanche」, 「Sirena」 would lose their authority.
Forming an alliance between unbalanced power was originally like that.
And needless to say, that structure would also apply to 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」.
“With that kind of a situation, do you think that 「El Blanche」 will form an equivalent alliance with 「Sirena」? If you think they would, then pledge right here right now. With 「**「Sirena」 will form an equivalent alliance with 「Liberator」 with the comprehension on the loss 「Sirena」 will incur**」 here ── Make a contract (Pledge) under the **Great Contract Magic**.”
And the one who replied Reiji who had stepped into their limits was not the **Hero**.
“──Ryo-chan cannot do that~”
Remaining graceful, the **Ruler** spoke.
“The one who can decide that, is only me as the **Ruler**~”
An appropriate follow-up.
Reiji’s anticipation of unreasonably establishing a beneficial contract in the momentum was crushed there.
How would Reiji react to that ── Tifalycia timidly observed, only to notice that his scheming smile did not change.
In other words.....was that also according to his expectations?

Tifalycia’s suspicion did not clear up, while Taigoubou giggled.
“Kyahha, that’s true. I almost made one accidentally♪ Rather, in the first place, the welcome party and conference is a story after tomorrow♪”
“Oh dear, Ryo-chan is really slow on such things. ──Aah, everyone from 「Liberator」, please do not misunderstand, we really are welcoming you all~ Please at least believe in this~”
“──Well, that’s probably a fact.”
Seeing Reiji immediately back off, Tifalycia muttered on reflex.
“E.....Even though you suspected them so much before?”
“Suspected? Oi oi, I was just confirming things. ──Right?”
Hearing Reiji’s question, Seire meaningfully smiled and replied...
“.....About the alliance, since there is still time~ you may slowly think it over~ For now, please just ── accept our welcome~”
With an elegant bow...
Seire gracefully ── walked away.

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1. DisneyS○a - An attraction in Tokyo, Japan.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_DisneySea

2 Huis ○en Bosch - An attraction in Sasebo, Nagasaki, Japan.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huis_Ten_Bosch_(theme_park)

3 ○SJ - An attraction in Osaka, Japan.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Studios_Japan

Chapter 4 - NEET, Advocating the Way of Living

“Ah, I’m so full.”
In a huge palace that made one doubt how it was built in the bottom of the ocean, Reiji was lying in a bed that was big enough to fit 10 people, in a luxurious guest room comparable to the royal suites in his original world.
“Uoo!? What’s this? A water bed! Incredible.”
He shifted his body around as if to confirm the unique feeling of the liquid.
“Oh nice, I have finally recovered from my fatigue. I haven’t taken a walk in a long time after all.”

After that—

Reiji and co. returned back to the prosperous streets on the surface again and received various hospitable services as they walked along.
From appreciating an ice show that was similar to figure skating, to touring the beautiful sceneries on a course controlled by the water currents on a ship, they were literally treated as royal guests, and afterwards, they were invited to the huge palace that was the **Ruler’s** residence.
There, they enjoyed a dance performance while they dined in luxurious cuisine. It was already late at night by the time they ended the formal dinner and returned to their bedrooms.

“However, compared to the other races, despite having a narrow territory, 「Sirena」 has impressive technology and funds. The meal was quite delicious, this can certainly be considered first-rate as an amusement park.”
“.....Yeah.”
“Hmm? What are you being so wary of?”
“Rather ── Reiji is too lax! This place is the palace where the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 lives in, you know? Something may just──”
“No, that’s the line 「Sirena」 should be saying. Some other race is lodging in the place where their ruler resides in, you know? Normally they would be anxious. Especially since Leu stands out.”
It was like that during their stroll earlier, and Leu also gathered the most gazes during their meal too.
Leaving her silver-hair and red-eye trait aside, there were various legendary tales regarding her race and her body also hosted overwhelming mana.
Compared to the 「El Blanche」 that clearly possessed superior strength, the 「Strega」 never flaunted their power. Their existence alone reflected abnormality itself.
However, it seemed that the person herself did not mind it, and was spacing out next to Reiji.
Seeing Leu without any shred of anxiety or worry, Tifalycia cleared her throat and spoke again.
“So.....What are we going to do tomorrow?”
The conference and the welcome parade were both on the next day.
After telling them that, Seire and Taigoubou never touched upon anything related to the alliance afterwards.
Only welcoming them with all their effort ── their actions could only be described as such, they responded with a neutral stance until the very end.
And Tifalycia saw that Reiji, who would usually picked faults at others, was just honestly accepting the hospitality.

Although she was unable to understand what Reiji was normally thinking, he was especially incomprehensible this time.
“.....Since it’s Reiji, you must have already considered this to a certain extent already right?”
Or perhaps not just to a certain extent, but it might be right to the end.
In response to Tifalycia’s inquiry, Reiji dove into the bed as if burying himself in it, and heaved a big sigh.
“Haa.....How many times do I have to say it? NEE──”
“{NEET doesn’t take the initiative to work} is it?”
As Tifalycia spoke before he could finish, Reiji slowly turned his head towards her.
And as Tifalycia confirmed that he was looking over with his lazy gaze, a scheming smile appeared on her mouth.
“I already know that you will answer with this. Even if that isn't really the case.”
“.....Heeh?”
He thinly smiled.
Reiji purposely shrugged his shoulders, and told Tifalycia.
“No no, it’s true. Rather, if it’s not ── In other words, if I am actually having some thoughts on it, how are you going to prove it?”
──Got you.
Tifalycia thought so in her heart.
If Reiji got interested, it would be her game.
She already thought up a plan beforehand.
Tifalycia spoke those words that she prepared over and over beforehand.
“That obviously will be decided by a 「**Showdown**」. I don’t mind whichever way you want to do it.”
「**Showdown**」.
Hearing Tifalycia saying those words, Reiji propped himself up and crossed his arms.

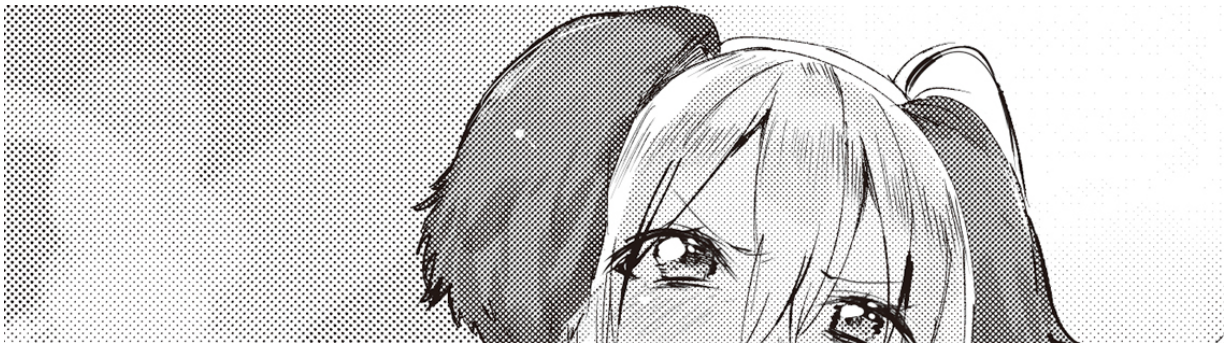
“Hmm? You sure seem confident. Although we’re in another country (outside), I won’t go easy on you in consideration of reputation you know? Rather, I may play wilder than usual because of the different than usual situation we are in you know?”
Hearing Reiji’s threat that he would be mercilessly conducting the punishment game like usual, meaning that the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 would be humiliated in public, Tifalycia slightly tensed up her face, but she immediately told herself that it would be a good chance.
“.....If I lose, it’s fine to do anything you want. On the other hand, if I win, what you are going to do at the conference tomorrow, what you are thinking about regarding the 「Sirena」 ── you must tell me everything.”
In order to hide her slightly faster tone, Tifalycia gave it her all to show a composed smile.
And then...waited.
For the instance when Reiji who seemed to be deep in thought to nod.
Then she unexpectedly got an immediate consent.
“Ooh, alright. Then let’s decide the actual method of the 「**Showdown**」.”
At the same time Reiji said so, the small magic formation signifying the establishment of contract spread──
“──Yay! I won against Reiji!”
Tifalycia exclaimed without thinking and clenched her fist.
“.....Hmm?”
Seeing Reiji tilt his head at her reaction, Tifalycia spoke without hiding her excitement.
“Fu...Fufufufufu ── You haven’t noticed huh. Please try to remember. What my objective is!”
Tifalycia’s objective.

To find out what exactly Reiji was planning to do for the conference the next day, and what he thought about the 「Sirena」 ── was not exactly the case, it was to find out whether he had such thoughts or not at all.
Since it was to ascertain whether he had such thoughts or not, it was not necessary for her to hear the actual contents.
In other words ── the result of the 「**Showdown**」 was irrelevant.
If it was as Reiji said, that he was really not thinking about anything, the victory condition 『tell whatever he is thinking』 would not be established.
Therefore.
“This means that the instant Reiji accepted the 「**Showdown**」 ── in other words, the instant the 「**Showdown**」 was established, my objective was automatically achieved!”
She had been thinking all the while.
Those words that Reiji always repeated.
──The thing known as outcome...would be decided before the start.
That’s why Tifalycia could not win. She was bound to lose before the showdown.
However, she noticed at some point in time.
If the result was decided before the showdown started, she just had to avoid the showdown.
Taking one step further ── it would be fine if a victory for her was the establishment of the showdown itself.
“How about this!”
I’m not going to get bullied all the time anymore.
I can do it if I try──
Tifalycia puffed out her chest proudly as if to show off her wit, and watched Reiji.
She got the better of Reiji with her own will for the first time. She escaped his grasp.
That sense of achievement...how to describe it──

“.....Master. It’s about time to tell her.”
At the same time Leu suddenly...
Urged so...
“Un, well, I actually knew though?”
Reiji immediately...
Responded as such.
“.....Ha?”
Her thoughts...stopped.
Before the dumbfounded Tifalycia, Reiji fluently spoke.
“Under the **Great Contract Magic**, the 「**Showdown**」 contract is established with mutual recognition and agreement. If setting the victory reward of this 「**Showdown**」 as 『tell me the details of what you are thinking about for the conference with the 「Sirena」 tomorrow』 is possible, then it at least proves that I am thinking about something under the **Great Contract Magic** for it to take place. The reward cannot be set if I didn’t think about anything. That’s how your objective is achieved ── about that? Un, I know.”
“Eh.....eh.....? ──Y-You accepted the 「**Showdown**」 despite knowing that?”
“Rather, I want to ask you back, even though it’s just to confirm if I am thinking of something, is it really necessary to do it in this manner?”
“────Eh?”
“Well, I think you should know this, but I’m not really trying to hide it from you. It’s just that telling you now is just pointless, so I didn’t say anything.”
“Geniusly...wasted effort.”
Tifalycia was unable to make a sound at Reiji’s blunt remark and Leu’s bland comment.
Tifalycia had been too conceited of her own idea that she lost sight of her original goal.

“E.....Even though it was such a rare chance...to get the better of Reiji.....”
When she thought that she had finally escaped, to think that she was still dancing on Reiji’s palm──
Seeing Tifalycia feel frustrated, Reiji pushed up his neck warmer, and smiled with his mouth covered.
──*It seems to be progressing just as planned.*
Then he immediately shrugged his shoulders.
“Well, to be able to think of making the acceptance of the 「**Showdown**」 itself a victory condition because you cannot win the 「**Showdown**」, is not a bad idea in itself, coming from you. It can be utilized in various ways.”
“I.....Is that so?”
It was not useless ── Tifalycia was able to cheer up from just that much.
“Un un. I believe that you worked hard alright? ──By the way.”
Seeing Reiji’s bright smile that was unlike him, she tensed herself.
“It’s about time we do this.”
She lamented at herself for challenging a battle of despair..
◇◆◇
“Hoh, the courtyard here is pretty impressive as well.”
Although they told us to use this room during our stay, they didn’t say that we cannot go out ── using such an excuse nonchalantly, Reiji went out of the guest room in the palace without permission, and arrived at the big courtyard.
On the cleanly polished marble floor, clear crystal monuments were lined up neatly and gem-like corals moved the hearts of the viewers.
Looking up to the other side of the transparent arch, the ocean replaced the sky, jellyfish-like luminous creatures replaced the moon and slowly drifted about, illuminating the underwater city with a certain degree of brightness.

Idly strolling, he began to think that the **Universal Paradise (Aquatera Realm)** actually meant this scenery.
“Umu, being a NEET at this kind of place is not such a bad idea.” Reiji unconsciously muttered.
“──AN!”
A protest-like voice came from 『her』 right next to his feet.
“Eh? What?”
“ANN...AN! AUAU!”
“──{I agree with that opinion, I want to cooperate so that Reiji can live a NEET life to the fullest}?”
“AUUU!? AUU...AUNN...AUAUAUUU!!”
“I totally cannot understand what you are trying to say.”
The person who coldly said that was Leu who was walking on the opposite side of Reiji with 『her』 in between.
She mercilessly told 『her』, who had a leash on her collar and was on all fours while wearing dog ears ── Tifalycia.
“Properly...speak up.”
“u...uu...uUUuu...”
“.....Though I’m not qualified to say this, you are really terrible.”
The 「**Showdown**」 with Tifalycia ended with Reiji’s overwhelming victory. Then using the victory reward 『Do anything you want if I lose』, Reiji ── No, more accurately speaking, with Leu’s suggestion, Tifalycia was ordered to 「**Absolute obedience while wearing dog ears. Walk on all fours. Speak only dog language**」.



“I have also thought of taking a stroll with dog ears, but to add in the condition of speaking only in dog language ── Good job Leu.”
“I will get embarrassed if Master praises me so much.”
Due to the wicked pair who were raising their thumbs to praise each other, Tifalycia, wearing dog ears and on all fours, was grieving in

tears with her face lowered.
“Auu...auu.....”
She was still a **Ruler** if anything. She, who was originally the royal successor of the 「Elf」, was leashed with a collar and had to walk on all fours.
In addition, having to walk on all fours further emphasized the bountifulness of her breasts, everytime she lifted her knees to move, the short skirt of the dress would roll up, exposing her thighs and it was even about to expose what was beyond──
It would be an out no matter how anyone saw it.
Seeing Tifalycia, who challenged him to a 「**Showdown**」 without thinking about the consequences and received the penalty game after she lost, looking up to him with teary begging eyes, and Leu, who was watching such a Tifalycia with cold eyes in silence, he felt that it might have been a tad bit overboard.
“──Ok ok I get it already, 「**You can speak normally**」.”
The instant Reiji said so, the contract was released, Tifalycia slumped down on the spot powerlessly.
“U.....Uu.....That’s just...too harsh.....What will the 「Sirena」 say if they saw me in this position...”
“Hmm? Do you want to hear it from them directly? Then──”
“N-No I don’t want to hear-I don’t want to hear-I don’t want to hear!!”
Leu quietly spoke to Tifalycia who flung her face up desperately trying to stop Reiji.
“What are you obstructing Master for? Sit.”
“Eh.....eh?”
“Sit.”
“──”
The person who won the 「**Showdown**」 was only Reiji, so Leu did not have the authority to order her.
To talk in dog language was also a suggestion by Leu which was ordered by Reiji.

However, Tifalycia sat down on the spot as if the forced ordering by authority was working.
Absolute hierarchical relationship.
As if to show that off, Leu spoke even more coldly.
“Beg.”
“Au.....th-that’s.....”
“Beg.”
“.....U-Uuuu.....”
“She told you to beg! You can’t do it!?”
“Wh-Why is Reiji also ordering me!? Please stop it!”
“.....Though saying that, Master never actually gave you the order. If he ordered you, you should already be begging.”
“Ah.....”
That was true.
What was released was just the restriction of speaking dog language, the rest should have remained as they were.
“Why is the order.....”
As Tifalycia questioned, Leu spoke while looking at Reiji.
“Probably...because Master didn’t order so from his heart.”
Receiving Leu’s gaze, Reiji carefreely answered.
“Oh, you knew? As I thought, if you never think about it and just speak out, it seems that the order function will not activate.”
Seeing Reiji’s signature evil smile, Tifalycia asked while remaining seated.
“Could it be.....this penalty game is to test that?”
“Hmm? No, taking a stroll with a dog-eared elf is one of the plays that I had wanted to do long ago though?”
“.....You’re the worst.”
While Tifalycia sunk her shoulders for the nth time as her hopes were betrayed, she touched her head — the dog ears attached to her head and spoke in frustration.
“Why did you bring these in the first place.....!”

Reiji did not bring along the bag that he had from his original world to the Watatsumi Palace.
To be able to take it out despite being empty-handed, it meant that he brought it along in his clothes.
“Ha? What are you talking about? Ears are obviously important.”
“No, ‘What are you talking about’ should be my line.”
“By the way, I also have bunny ears, sheep ears, cow ears.”
Saying so, Reiji took out foldable headbands with said ears attached to them from the pockets of his uniform as if it was natural.
“Why! Why!!”
“What is it, don’t say it twice just because it’s important. It’s obviously because I like them. By the way, bunny ears also have the drooping ear version.”
As Reiji took out the drooping bunny ears from his neck warmer, Tifalycia looked up beyond the sky.
“.....Why...Why such a person.....Aah mother, Tifalycia is in a trial.....”
Taking a side glance at Tifalycia whose eyes were hollow, Leu attached animal ears onto the hood of her black robe and spoke.
“If you like animal ears so much, you could have...just joined the 「Beastia」.”
“No, what I like the most is elf ears. ──Aah, so that’s why I was summoned to the 「Elf」 huh?”
“.....If that is the truth, I will seriously consider cutting off my ears.”
Fufufufu.....As Tifalycia dangerously grinned, Leu spoke.
“Cut them off if you like. Then, you can just miss out the important things that Master is about to say.”
“Eh?”
The important things Reiji was about to say?
“Did you think that...Master is taking a stroll with no purpose at all?”
“.....”
She thought so, she really thought so, but.

If it was something important, could it be──
“Now then, a question to Tifalycia. What is 『that』 which is in that room but not here, or rather, 『that』 which is everywhere but not here?”
Reiji raised his index finger as he gave out a sudden quiz.
“Hint would be...「Sirena」 would be troubled without it.”
「Sirena」 would be troubled without it.
「Sirena」 would be troubled without it, but not them.
The thing that was everywhere except here──
Following the direction Reiji’s index finger pointed, looking past the transparent arch, a flash came across Tifalycia.
“.....Water?”
The 「Sirena」 ruled over the ocean and controlled the current.
There was a water bed in that room, but the location they were at was a place in Watatsumi Palace that unusually did not have anything that used water.
“Not bad.”
“It’s very obvious.”
Reiji grinned and Leu uninterestedly commented.
Water. 「Sirena」 that used water──
Tifalycia began to gradually understand what they were talking about, and were about to say.
“Ah ── if you answered me in that room, and if you conversed in a place with water, there is a high possibility that those girls can eavesdrop?”
Living in water, 「Sirena」 used magic related to water.
And then, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 who could clearly hear conversations at places connected to the ocean.
If it’s them, not limited to the ocean, they might be able to do the same for anything with water.
“Well, it’s convincing even if they didn’t explain it as magic. Water ── more accurately speaking, not only water, but all liquids have higher

densities than gas. In other words, sound transmits at a higher speed in water than air, attenuation rate is also lower, so it's possible to accurately hear the conversation."
Furthermore, unlike Reiji and co who listened through the vibrations of their eardrums, they originally lived in water.
So it's probably natural to think that they would be able to hear sound more clearly in water.
In that case.
"Assuming that their magic allows them to grasp the events happening in places with water not limited to the ocean, our conversations will all be heard. And then — if I am the **Hero** of 「Sirena」, I will definitely do it."
Reiji's grinning face overlapped for a moment with the innocent smile of the **Hero** of 「Sirena」.
—Everything in the ocean is connected.
Taigoubou had said so.
Everything is connected.
Be it 「**Showdown**」 or **Heroic War**, intel controlled everything.
It was unnecessary to confirm that by now.
"H.....However, they intend to form an alliance with us right.....? {There's no need to worry about intel leaking since we are forming an alliance} Reiji also....."
"Alright, a dumb child."
"Uu."
"I said that intel controls everything right? Not just **Heroic War** or 「**Showdown**」. Intel that leaked out is obviously intel that was intended to be leaked from the beginning."
"Intel...that was intended to be leaked....."
"For example {Never started a **Heroic War** themselves} or {Hence always losing in **Heroic War**}, how would you judge a race that leaked such intel?"
".....I would think that it's a race that is pacifist and dislikes conflicts."

“I know right. That’s it.”
“Eh?”
“In order to make you think that they are pacifist and dislike conflicts, such intel is leaked out. Even though that’s not really the case.”
Tifalycia reflexively responded to the words ‘Even though that’s not the case in reality’.
“H-However, 「Sirena」 mentioned that they had no intention of fighting against the other races──”
“Does no intention of fighting against other races equal to not fighting?”
“.....That’s...”
Not...the same.
Not the same, but...
“Even though they don’t intend to fight, there are times when they had to fight──”
“Is there? Really? Does the system known as **Heroic War** allow such things?”
“──────”
When Tifalycia still belonged to the 「Elf」.
The **Heroic War** against 「Beastia」 over the governance of Tistel was a forced one.
They had no intention of fighting but had to fight.
However, that was only from Tifalycia’s perspective. From the perspective of the 「Elf」, it was expected.
Otherwise, the **Heroic War** would not even have been carried out.
Between the two races fighting against each other, if the **Rulers** themself did not agree, then the **Heroic War** would definitely not be carried out.
“Certainly, the 「Sirena」 had never started a **Heroic War** themselves. They kept losing the **Heroic War** and both the **Hero** and the **Ruler** said that they don’t want to fight. So?”
“So.....what?”

“I can also say whatever I want. Are their actions matching the words they said? If they really are pacifists and disliked fighting, all they have to do is to reject **Heroic War**. Because a system that makes it possible exists. Then, why did they not do that?”
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 laughed sarcastically.
“Always losing **Heroic War**, even so, they earnestly laughed ──energetic pacifist. It’s only for the sake of giving an impression that 「Sirena」 is that kind of a race.”
What was leaked...was only what was intended to be leaked.
The existing intel on them was all controlled by them──
As Tifalycia was astonished at the evidence provided, Reiji suddenly relaxed his expression.
“In the first place, despite the 「Sirena」 losing so much in **Heroic Wars**, they did not have a single fatal loss. It’s a brilliant way of losing, a calculated loss.”
“Even though they lost territories, is it.....”
“Does the 「Sirena」 need land territory in the first place? Isn’t this already quite sufficient?”
Seire herself did say so, it also seemed that 「Sirena」 had no problem as a matter of fact──
“Low value to the 「Sirena」, but not so to the other races.....Such things obviously have to be sold at a high price.”
Just like how the 「Elf」 tried to get rid of their failure by selling the obstructing Tistel to the 「Beastia」.
「Sirena」 purposely kept losing in order to plant the image they wanted into the other races──?
“Now then, this is where the next question comes in. What is the 「Sirena」 planning to do after establishing the pacifist image? What does a race that doesn’t plan to win want to do at the end?”
Reiji asked as if testing her, and she pondered over his words.
If Tifalycia herself was 「Sirena」.

What would they, who advocated pacifism, ensured self-sufficiency for the race, built the paradise known as the underwater city which other races would find difficult to accomplish, do?
The answer she arrived at, was very simple.
“.....Maintaining the status quo?”
Tifalycia muttered in a low voice, while Reiji raised both the corners of his mouth hearing that.
“In order to maintain that status quo, they would make use of the chess piece known as 「Liberator」. That is the real objective of the 「Sirena」 ──Isn’t that so? The representative of 「Sirena」-sama?”
He suddenly raised his volume and directed those last words to his back.
There was not a single shadow at the entrance of the courtyard.
There was nobody ── when Tifalycia was going to ask that.
“──!?”
From the shadow of a pillar.
Wearing thin clothings, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 ── Seire Euphonia slowly appeared.
“──Y-You noticed her!?”
Rather than being surprised at Seire showing up, Tifalycia was astonished at Reiji who said all that despite knowing that Seire was there.
“Hmm? Obviously.”
“E-Even though the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 is there, why did you──”
“On the contrary.”
Calmly...
Leu pointed out.
“Master came here to make sure that the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 heard it all.”
“Ha!?”

Tifalycia’s mind could not catch up with the sudden change in conversation which was completely different from before.
As if expecting Tifalycia’s behavior, Reiji took a glance at Seire as he was about to explain it to Tifalycia.
“Look here. Try thinking carefully ok? They can receive transmission from everywhere except this place. If they can’t hear our voice from anywhere, doesn’t that mean we are definitely here? Just like the conversation at the beach, it seems that the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」-sama likes to directly confirm things for herself.”
“And so, by reading that mentality ── we can lure the other party out, and let her hear what we want her to hear.”
Things that were intended to be heard.
The real aim of the 「Sirena」 that Reiji spoke of just now was...what was intended to be heard──?
“In any case, that’s how we thought. In those regards, can you tell us how you think about us?”
“Ah──”
As Reiji suddenly tossed the ball to Seire while smiling, Tifalycia only then noticed.
Even if they tried to say things that would be disadvantageous to the 「Sirena」 directly, it was clear to them that they would be avoided, muddled through, left hanging.
In that case, creating a situation where avoiding, muddling through, left hanging could not be done, by pointing out the situation through making use of eavesdropping themselves, then following up with questions, 「Sirena」 would not be able to escape.
That was...Reiji’s objective.
Then, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 who took action just as he planned, while facing the questioning gaze of the 「Liberator」, elegantly, and magnificently ── smiled.
“──What have you been chatting about?”
Composedly.

From the front.
“I just happened to pass by here coincidentally~ I didn’t hear anything.”
Pretended to be innocent.
She even spread out her disheveled sleeves, and pleaded to Reiji and co. with her eyes.
“You can understand from seeing right? I have just returned from my bath~”
—*That’s why I really don’t know anything.*
Seeing that overly obvious pretentious attitude, Tifalycia stood up without thinking...
“Such an obvious lie—”
“Ok Tifalycia {Sit}.”
“—Kyan.”
She was forced to sit by Reiji’s word.
Straightening her skirt that was flipped up from sitting down with vigour, Tifalycia blushed in embarrassment and complained.
“Wh-Why did you say that now of all time! More importantly, showing this in front of the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」—”
“Well, don’t say that.”
Putting off Tifalycia, Reiji only focused on Seire and snickered.
“Even so. That’s how we thought. Please understand just that, got it?”
Giving a cold gaze at the end, Reiji turned around and headed back.
“Though I don’t know what you mean—”
Seire calmly tilted her head...
“I will...keep it in mind~”
Maintaining a smiling face all the time — she quietly bowed.
◇◆◇
“.....You are terrible.”
At the same time they returned to their room.

Tifalycia muttered so as if pouting, Reiji endured from yawning and spoke.
“Aahn? About making you sit in front of Seire?”
“That’s also very terrible, but.....no, that’s actually really terrible!”
Perhaps getting embarrassed after remembering, Tifalycia cleared her throat at the end of the sentence.
“Why didn’t you tell me the truth?”
Going to the courtyard was to lure Seire out.
It was in order to tell them that Reiji and co definitely did not believe in 「Sirena」 unconditionally, and instead, held an attitude far from being friendly──
“Such a thing, there can be only one reason.”
“Wh.....What is it?”
There was no point in telling Tifalycia. Or perhaps, telling Tifalycia would have a high possibility of failing ── what if he said that?
Ignoring the worrying Tifalycia...
“Too troublesome.”
Reiji’s answer could be considered more terrible than her imagination in a sense.
“.....You are.....”
Tifalycia was unable to come up with words to voice out the terrible treatment she received, while Reiji turned sideways on the bed and spoke.
“Rather, did I not mention it? I didn’t sleep yesterday. Let me sleep already. Ah I’ll be sleeping soundly now.”
“Ha!? You’re just leaving this hanging halfway? What do you intend to do tomorrow in the end!?”
“Not really anything.”
“.....Haa?”
“Whatever happens, happens.....Fuwa.....Ah I’m at my limit.”
Reiji’s voice was filled with sleepiness, and he just lay flat on the bed without caring about the light.

“Wai──”
Hearing the snores after one second, Tifalycia hung her shoulders at the selfish **Hero’s** behavior.
Since that’s the case, Reiji probably wouldn’t wake up even if the sky itself fell.
It seemed that they had to face the next day without any preparation.
“Good night.....”
Powerlessly whispering so, she was about to go out of the room.
“Where...are you going?”
Leu sat next to Reiji as if it was natural and looked straight at Tifalycia.
“Eh.....I’m going to...return to my room.”
The guest rooms prepared by the 「Sirena」 numbered three.
Reiji, Leu, Tifalycia each got one.
Tifalycia intended to return to her own room.
“Here is already enemy territory. Try to...stay together as much as possible.”
“Eh.....”
Though that was probably reasonable...
“.....U-Umm, it may be too late to say this now, but.....staying a night in a man’s room is.....umm, going to have various issues right.....?”
Perhaps due to carrying out 「**Showdown**」 in Reiji’s room most of the time at Tistel, she was already numb to such feelings, but it was unthinkable for an unmarried woman to stay in a gentleman’s room all the time.
Especially when Tifalycia had no immunity towards males ──
Tifalycia peeked at the sleeping Reiji and blushed while thinking of delusional things.
“That’s really too late. Also ── how can a dog...not be at Master’s side?”
“.....!? Are we still continuing that!?”
Well, she certainly was still wearing dog ears.

Usually, the penalty game should end the moment Reiji had his fill──
“Why...do you think that it’s over?”
She emotionlessly tilted her head.
Tifalycia gulped at the weird pressure she exerted.
Then, when she noticed that Leu was silently pointing at the floor, she couldn’t help but voiced out her objection.
“Please wait a moment. Even before, the only one I lost to is Reiji. There is no reason for me to──”
“Sit.”
“I.....I won’t listen. I’m still the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」...”
“S・I・T.”
Those red pupils shone in the dark room.
“.....Ah──Uu.”
──「Strega」 could cast curse magic on their opponents with only their eyes.
She suddenly recalled a phrase from the stories she heard from her mother long ago.
When Tifalycia returned to her senses, she had already sat down quietly at the spot Leu pointed.
“Obedience is...a good thing. ──Good night.”
Saying so, Leu quickly turned off the lamp, leaving Tifalycia muttering to herself.
“Uuu.....What the heck am I doing.....”
The mutters vanished into the darkness of the night, and only quiet breathing sounds remained.

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Easy to sleep and easy to wake up was one of the specialties that Reiji prided himself in.
No matter how tired he was, how much his body desired sleep, he would immediately wake up when something happened.
Therefore ── the instant someone sneakily crawled into the bed, Reiji’s consciousness immediately returned.

“.....Oi Leu. I told you not to make a move at night──”
While complaining, Reiji turned sideways to turn on the lamp ── and puyo.
His right hand felt a sensation of sinking into softness.
“Hmm.....!?”
That sensation was ── honestly speaking, it felt like breasts.
However, leaving aside Leu, even Tifalycia did not have such volume.
While calming thinking about such things, and fondling the softness in his hands as if to ascertain some things...
“──Ahn♡ .....Why only focus on one side? It’s making me uncomfortable.....”
An alluring sigh and a sweet fragrance.
And that gentle tone...
“Seire Euphonia?”
Why was she...here?
Where’s Leu who would chase her away without needing to say anything?
No, what did she come here for in the first place──?
The instant he thought up to there, the small lamp at the dresser lit up, and displayed the strange situation in the room.
In the room, there was Seire with disheveled clothes, and five 「Sirena」 girls in attires that could only be described as underwear.
They controlled some wriggling tube-like things ── tentacle-like things and were rubbing their bodies together to entwine someone.
The moment Reiji understood who that someone was, he comprehended everything.
“──I see. There’s this kind of negotiation skill as well.”
“No dear~ Please call it a negotiation skill.”
Seire said so while leaning closer to him, and narrowed her eyes watching the girls.

“『Resonance』 that is used by the 「Sirena」. One of its effects is that, when we go into heat, the 「Sirena」 nearby will also resonate.....so if someone touches the fluid secreted during this time, it will also have the same effect on people that are not 「Sirena」~ Reiji is slowly feeling it too, right? ──Just like those girls.”
He looked towards the direction she pointed.
The defenseless, dog-eared Tifalycia was squirming on the floor while being entwined by the tentacles of the girls, and Leu, her expression twisted from trying to hide her arousal, desperately resisted with her 『Adjacent Darkness』, but was still assaulted in various areas.
“Aa.....Rei.....ji.....he...lp.....hhnnn♡”
“.....Mas...ter.....uuaah♡”
The voices they raised after they noticed Reiji changed into erotic moans, they tried to cover their mouths but their bodies were robbed of freedom by the tentacles.
Shame and pleasure.
Seeing them continue moaning incomprehensibly, Reiji calmly pointed out.
“.....That’s more or less considered unwilling right? What about the **Great Contract Magic**?”
Actions that harmed the other party were forbidden. That was not limited to simple violence, it should also apply to any forceful sexual harassment.
However, Seire just smiled brightly and replied.
“There is no problem. Though they are saying no, they’ve already accepted it in their hearts~”
“.....Ah. With {Frustrated, but feeling it}, if the ‘feeling it’ part is larger then the **Great Contract Magic** won’t activate. On top of that, the magic that you 「Sirena」 have also has the effect of amplifying such feelings huh.”

No matter how much they hated it in their minds, their bodies were actually feeling pleasure.
Great Contract Magic would not consider superficial words, but judge based on their actual feelings.
“If the head can’t be conquered, conquer the body.....I see, a good method.”
“I don’t quite understand the complicated stuff.”
Tilting her head, Seire gradually closed in towards Reiji to the point that their noses were about to touch, then pressed Reiji’s hand on her breast, and showed an euphoric expression.
“Just that ── if everyone felt good then it will be nice is what I think.....”
She pushed Reiji down just like that, and slipped down her kimono. Under the gentle light, Seire’s nude body was revealed.
The light traced out her gentle curves, her proportionate body that was desired by any female caused Reiji to gulp.
“If I leave my body to you here.....I will probably have a really good time.”
“──Fufu. You will reach heaven as many times as you like~ That’s ── also for me.”
Seire brushed back her hair, slowly shifted her body to ride on top of Reiji, stroked Reiji’s cheek, and covered his lips with hers ── or was about to.

“But I refuse.”
Those short words were...
As if a magic incantation, Seire was repelled away.
“——!”
Seire fell out of the bed, buck naked, rolled into the girls who were controlling the tentacles, and rolled a few more times before stopping.

Standing up without caring for her appearance, she looked at the bed with an astonished expression, and confirmed the small magic formation that she was familiar with, then muttered.
“Don’t tell me ── **Great Contract Magic**?”
That should be impossible.
As Seire was about to say that, Reiji sat up on the bed, held his arms and snickered as he spoke.
“Eh? Are you having doubts? Even though you are clearly taking an action to harm me.”
He was about to be sexually assaulted ── Certainly, Seire’s action could be perceived as such.
“Impossible.....! Men should not be able to refuse.....the mind is one thing, but the body should not.....”
Saying up to there, she covered her mouth as if realizing something.
“Could it be...you are hom──”
“No way!”
Reiji denied on the spot, and Seire’s pupils became unfocused due to confusion.
“According to Ryo-chan’s intel, you should be a virgin.....”
“Ou. I’m a virgin.”
“Then, why──”
“Because you’re misunderstanding something.”
“Misunderstanding.....?”
“Accurately speaking, it’s not just you. It’s the whole concept about virginity in the entire world.”
“────Ha?”
The concept about virginity in the world?
To the sudden large scale talk...
Or rather ── to the talk that turned to a direction that Seire could not comprehend, many question marks started filling her head.
However, Reiji, the NEET **Hero** that came from another world, spoke as if that’s just fine.

“You almost mentioned this just now right? {Even though you are a virgin, why won’t you fall} or {Even though you shouldn’t be able to resist females} ── what a big misunderstanding.”
His tone was low and resounding.
His actions gradually intensified.
“In the world, male and female virgins are often seen as spears and castles. Male virgins are depreciated as the cowardly spears that couldn’t infiltrate a castle even once, while the female virgins are praised as sturdy castles that never fell, even once. People evaluate the castle to be sturdy, when they've never been used before ── on the other hand, why do they depreciate the unknown spear that has never been used before?”
“Th-That’s because after they actually siege the castle──”
“Actually siege the castle, fell it, then what? {Aah what, it’s only this} {It’s more normal than I thought} ──saying an impression like that and it’s all over? In that instant, the ideals held by them, the fantasies dreamed by them will all be lost forever!”
“──”
“Don’t misunderstand me, alright? Always wanting to fell a castle, always thinking of crossing that line ── but they don’t actually do it! That’s because a true virgin knows ── there is no reality that can triumph over fantasy!!”
He shot open his eyes wide and spoke powerfully.
“That’s why, in order to protect the holy territory (Sanctuary) known as fantasy from the temptation, seduction and charms of the devil known as reality, virgins will absolutely not fall before a woman! Basically──
Virgin is the way of life for a true man!!”
Therefore, Reiji had transcended his physical body, mind, consciousness, and subconsciousness, making him able to refuse such behavior──
“.....”

Everyone sank into silence to the point where it could be misunderstood that time itself had stopped.
Released from the tentacles, hearing the entire speech, Tifalycia spoke dryly to Leu who was nearby.
“.....Leu-san.....You may not believe it, but that is the **Hero** of our country.....”
Tifalycia sprawled as if she had turned into a pile of sand, while Leu nodded.
“Wonderful.”
Such...instant reply.
Tifalycia slumped her shoulders, bit her teeth in loneliness and prayed unconsciously.
“———Aah great mother in heaven. Please bless Tifalycia alone to at least remain sane.....”
Then, her anxiety was relayed through a streak of tears flowing down her cheek, at that moment.
“—Pu...kyahhahahahahahaha.”
Outside the window.
From a location where there should not have been any foothold, joyful laughter could be heard.
Tifalycia and co looked towards there together.
An unexpected person, but it seemed to be as expected of ‘her’.
“—Ryo-chan. I told you to leave this place to me.”
Hearing Seire’s blaming mutter, Taigoubou raised her face that was filled with tears from all the laughter.
“Kyahha...kyahhaha.....A...ha...haha.....A-After all, I’m at my limit.....I wanted to just observe though.....but it’s just too funny.”
While Taigoubou was still immersed in the lingering laughter as if she had not laughed enough yet, she wiped away the tears around her eyes, and looked at Reiji.
“Reiji-chi really...is the best♪”

Lifting up her thumb and giggling, Taigoubou then immediately changed her smile into a mischievous grin...
“Since Reiji-chi is that great, I think I will just tell you everything on this occasion.”
And said so after crossing through the window and sitting on the ledge.
“The real reason us 「Sirena」 wanted to form an alliance with you 「Liberator」 is ── because you 「Liberator」 are easy to make use of.”
Bluntly.
Continued.
“Rather, 「Liberator」 is being a real pain in the first place. Suddenly making a country, taking in weaklings such as 「Infirma」 and [Absence], isn’t that already a revolution? Even though our goal is to continue to maintain the world as it is currently.”
Taigoubou simply admitted the things that Reiji saw through and had pointed out.
“You admitted it rather quickly.”
Reiji spoke as if to add fuel to the fire.
“Is it alright? The mask of a peace seeking race you all advocated is going to be peeled off you know?”
“It won’t peel off.”
The one who answered was the chief of the race known as 「Sirena」.
Seire wore back her kimono before anyone noticed and calmly weaved her words.
“It is an undeniable truth that we are wishing for peace. I ── Us 「Sirena」 are only being considerate for your sake.”
「Sirena」, a race that blurred the boundary between individuals due to 『Resonance』 regardless of differences in sex and existence.

The ‘self’ ── ‘everyone’ they referred to were only about 「Sirena」 from the start.
In other words, that’s...
“「Sirena」 is only acting for the sake of 「Sirena」 alone.....?”
Seire only returned a cold-hearted smile towards Tifalycia’s muttering.
The world peace, they said.
Only meant their own peace, it did not include the peace of 「Liberator」──
Seeing Tifalycia receiving a shock, Reiji blandly commented.
“The one that stood out politically due to being paid attention to by every race from the founding process was us. Then the geographical condition of being connected to the territory of the 「Elf」 and the 「Beastia」. Unable to become self-sufficient in food production, the weakness of being unable to survive without accepting aid from another country. A hastily built sanctum for the weak, 「Liberator」 that suddenly popped out was ── extremely easy to be used. You can even say that there is no other country that is as good as this one which will not cause a problem after squeezing it dry and throwing it away. That kind of a scheme would be considered by any race, on the other hand, it would be weird if they are not considering this.”
Hence, as a result.
“It just means that 「Sirena」 is no different from the other races.”
Reiji boringly concluded so, and looked to the **Hero** of 「Sirena」, signaling if she had anything to say.
“──Well, if it’s according to the generalization Reiji-chi used, it’s not wrong to say that we are the same as the other races.”
Toying the fishing rod she held, Taigoubou continued with a “However” without any malicious intent.
“Originally, the relationship between a country and another country, a race with another race, is just like this you know?”

The girl, who was once the tactician of the world’s biggest country, swung her feet and expressed her thoughts.
“The definition of world peace that I know is just the peace of the country, without any leniency for others, and I don’t intend to put my hands in any more than that from the start. I have already seen enough endings of people who were blinded by greed. Just that, we ── this race known as 「Sirena」, is at least more aware of our own position. We keep in mind where we stand.”
“Hence, with maintaining the status quo as the objective, you cut off the unnecessary territories.”
Even when Reiji interrupted, she responded fluently.
“Yes. In the case of 「Liberator」, it’s also for the sake of maintaining the status quo, so we just want to make use of you a little bit, and won’t do anything more than that. I believe that this isn’t a bad deal for you 「Liberator」 also right? Since──”
“We will be used no matter what.”
A voice strongly interrupted.
Taigoubou raised her eyebrow after hearing those words coming from an expected person, and everyone’s gaze concentrated on the owner of the voice.
“If we are going to be used by other races anyway, it’s better to be used by the 「Sirena」 ── such a thing, is it?”
Hearing Tifalycia’s quiet confirmation, Taigoubou narrowed her eyes.
“Un, yes.”
Her lips...curled up.
“Of course, that’s the fact seen from our perspective. Well, something like facts only exist in personal perspective in the first place though.”
As Taigoubou said that, Tifalycia immediately continued.
“In that case ── There should also be a fact that should exist from our perspective.”
As if waiting for her to say that, the flashy girl narrowed her eyes.

“That’s true. For example ── Establishing an equivalent alliance with us, something like that?”
Establishing an equivalent alliance.
That would the same as an inequivalent alliance to the 「Sirena」.
If 「Liberator」 held the same authority and responsibility as 「Sirena」, then 「Sirena」 would not be able to demand unreasonable things from 「Liberator」, while continuing to one-sidedly bear the demerits due to teaming up with 「Liberator」.
In other words, if 「Sirena」 wanted to gain merit in forming an alliance with 「Liberator」, then they would definitely end up with being the side that held higher authority and responsibility, resulting in a subjugatory relationship.
On the other hand ── 「Liberator」 also had a chance to establish an equivalent alliance with 「Sirena」.
Tifalycia also understood by then.
What Reiji intended to do was probably that.
“Probably, Reiji-chi’s intention is also that. Probing for information beforehand, then putting us in check all of a sudden, and let your own demands pass. ──But unfortunately. That’s also what we are thinking of.”
Seeing Taigoubou continue as if she knew everything Tifalycia was thinking, then Reiji laughed.
As if to show that he had enough of listening to such things.
“We are in parallels huh. So? What do you all want on top of that?”
Hearing the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 telling her that that was his objective from the start without hiding, the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 jumped down from the window as if she was just waiting for those words, she held her hands behind her back, and giggled.
“Want to take a gamble with us?”
“.....Gamble?”
“Yes. If using Reiji-chi’s words ── something like let's decide this with a 「**Showdown**」?”

As if knowing that it would end up like that from the beginning...
“The contents?”
Reiji prompted her to continue.
“Reiji-chi’s virginity.”
She smiled innocently.
“Whether Reiji-chi’s virginity can be taken or not — in other words, a virginity stealing battle, how about it?”

Chapter 5 - NEET, Betting on the Bet

The next day.
In the room that was assigned to Reiji.
“──Only this time, I have seriously lost faith in you.”
Tifalycia muttered with an utterly disgusted face, while Reiji also played along.
“Eh? You hadn’t lost faith in me already?”
Can’t believe it! I’m a NEET you know? Are you an idiot? ── As Reiji continued talking like that, Tifalycia’s clenched fists trembled.
“──I mean I had already lost faith in you from the start, but I have lost even more faith in you now!”
“Ehh? You say all that, but aren’t you still hopeful?”
Come come, honestly admit it already.....Receiving such a reply that had obviously shifted to teasing her, Tifalycia raised her voice as she could not endure it any longer.
“~Why aren’t you reflecting!? To actually accept that ── that despicable 「**Showdown**」!”
Truly...a despicable 「**Showdown**」.
Muttering so while gritting her molars, Tifalycia recalled the matters from last night──
What the **Hero** of 「Sirena」, Taigoubou, suggested was utterly blasphemous to Tifalycia.
It was so nonsensical that even though she opened her mouth, no words came out.

“———Ha?”
It took all her effort just to squeeze out that single response.
Seeing such a Tifalycia, Taigoubou tilted her head and spoke up with a smile.
“Hnn? Did you not get it? Virginity stealing battle is basically competing on whether we can take Reiji-chi’s first time or not——”
“——Accepted.”
“Eh.”
“That 「**Showdown**」, I accept it!”
With arms folded, the one who stated that with a dignified attitude was none other than Reiji himself.
“You want to bend this solid will of mine, my ultimate faith to resist against the harsh reality, and thus, make the race known as 「Liberator」 itself submit, huh? Fu —— that spirit is praiseworthy!!”
“Eeeeeeeeeh!?”
Ignoring Tifalycia’s shout, Taigoubou clapped her hands together and said with a smile.
“Alright, it’s decided♪ Then let’s decide on the conditions now. If Reiji-chi’s first time is stolen before he leaves this country, it will be the victory for 「Sirena」 and we will be the leading side in the alliance. If it’s not stolen, then it will be the victory for 「Liberator」 with you on the leading side. Ah, since it’s a contract that involves the entire race, to make the conditions available for all to see, how about going with the **Heroic War** format?”
Hearing Taigoubou’s saying that so lightly, Tifalycia raised her voice.
“P-Please wait a moment! To conduct a **Heroic War**, you have an obligation to let all the other races know——”
“Kyahha, something like 『Victory condition: Stealing the virginity of the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 Houbami Reiji』 will be displayed, right?”
Taigoubou pointed up and added that happily.
“I——It’s not something to joke about!!”

Regardless of the outcome, doing such a **Heroic War** itself would be nothing but a disgrace to the 「Liberator」.
Why must they pitifully go through such humiliation!
“That’s true, we don’t mind, but if it would cause problems for you, then how about a contract just between the **Rulers** ── in the form of a 「**Showdown**」?”
“W-Well, that’s better.....”
A contract involving the entire race could only be formed between **Rulers**.
Originally, it was only if both parties could not come to a compromise, that they then settle things through a **Heroic War**. As long as there was no problem with the conditions, then settling things through the 「**Showdown**」instead ,as Reiji said, would also be──
“That’s not the point!! V-Virg ── I’m saying that betting on that kind of thing itself is the problem here!”
“Hmm? What about it, could it be that you think I will lose?”
“N-No, that’s.....”
“In this world, the 「**Showdown**」 cannot be established if both sides do not agree. Retrospectively speaking, what usually becomes necessary then is the thing called compromise. Things will not advance if both sides just persist on their own opinion. Then the next thing to consider is the matter on compromisation.”
“.....Haa.”
“Doing a 「**Showdown**」 means that there is a demand. Compromising to this demand means to give up on everything. Conversely, as long as the demand goes through, one would be able to compromise everything else. Of course, in order to secure the said demand, losing the 「**Showdown**」 is not allowed. That’s why an unwinnable 「**Showdown**」 must definitely not be accepted as a compromise. However, luckily ── no matter what kind of 「**Showdown**」 it is, I absolutely won’t lose.”

No matter what kind of 「Showdown」 it is, I absolutely won't lose
── Normally, one would just treat it as a joke.
However, Tifalycia was certain, it was a fact that surpassed all logic.
Certainly ── What Reiji had said was correct.
"Hence, we should accept the 「**Showdown**」 no matter what kind of conditions they present."
That's right, even this virginity stealing battle.
For an instant, Tifalycia agreed with him thinking that it was the natural course of events.
"──Ah."
A moment later, she noticed that she was completely deceived.
"Wai...Just now──"
Just when she was about to refute it, between Tifalycia and Seire ── the two **Rulers**, a small contract magic formation spread out.
"AAAAAAAAAAH!?"
No one reacted to Tifalycia's scream.
"Now then, please treat us well tomorrow♪"
In the end, she could only see off Taigoubou and others without being able to do anything.
"──I still feel angry when I recall it."
As if chewing on a bitter bug, Tifalycia grumbled.
"How can the fate of 「Liberator」 depend on Reiji's ch-chastity.....the content of the 「**Showdown**」 is also extremely limited.....In the first place, deciding on the alliance that will affect the fate of the races using v.....vir.....it's too imprudent....."
Although Tifalycia was deceived, she still felt angry at herself for establishing the contract of the 「**Showdown**」.
"Hey are you listening!?"
"Hmm, I'm not."
Immediately answering, Reiji unusually stood before a mirror and checked his appearance while speaking.

“Hey, I’m looking forward to what kind of a 「**Showdown**」 it will turn out to be.”
“.....Looking at the contents itself, Master will profit even if you lose.”
“Yes, that’s right! As expected of Leu, you do get it huh.”
“Profit even if you lose.....don’t tell me you intend on losing──”
“Eh? Hmm, what should I do?”
Heh heh heh
“Y-You despicable **Hero**.....!”
──*No good. If I don’t do something.....!*
If it continues like this, 「Liberator」 might really lose.
The alliance formed would save 「Liberator」 from the immediate crisis, but it would surely be led down the path of being squeezed dry by the 「Sirena」 and then thrown away.
Regardless of what Reiji is up to, for the sake of 「Liberator」, she must absolutely prevent his chastity from being stolen.
When Tifalycia made up her mind with a strong determination, Leu, who got next to her unknowingly, muttered.
“Even though you should just be honest with yourself.”
“.....Ha?”
Honest?
“A game that bets on Master’s virginity. You should just say that you don’t like the idea.”
“.....I did say that...with such intention though.”
“If you haven’t noticed yourself, then never mind.....It doesn’t change...what I want to do.”
She flung her robe as if signifying the end of the conversation, and walked straight towards the door.
At the same time Tifalycia tilted her head wondering what Leu was trying to tell her...
“Please excuse us ── everyone from 「Liberator」. We have come to pick you up.”
The door of the room was knocked on, and 「Sirena」 girls entered.

◇◆◇

Three 「Sirena」 girls.

──What could they have come to do?

While Tifalycia was being cautious because of what happened the day before, one of them stepped forward and politely bowed.

“Nice to meet you. We will be in charge of guiding you all for today’s welcome parade. Please treat us well.”

“Please treat me well, Onii-chan♡”

“.....Hello.”

It was easy to tell apart the types of the three girls who all wore a similar white one-piece.

The first girl was an older sister type who was full of tolerance and maintained a smile the entire time; her body had womanly curves and her chest was especially incredible.

The second was a cheerful twin-tail type, she seemed to be the youngest amongst the three, but her mischievous expression mysteriously gave off an erotic feel, making her seem like a little devil who played around with a man’s heart.

And then, there was the icy girl who did not even look at them when greeting them. Her body was on the slender side to put it nicely, or flat bluntly speaking. She was conscious of it herself, but put on an unsociable behavior so that others would not know ── just like a stray cat that would need time for it to get close to you, and would be loyal once intimate.

Seeing the clearly different traits of the girls which was obviously arranged on purpose, Leu muttered.

“『Big breasted Onee-san that soothes your soul 』 『Twin-tailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』 『Flat-chested and unsociable Tsundere』 ── I see, they have a good grasp of the points.”

“Ha?”

Not understanding the majority of the terms that came out from Leu’s muttering, Tifalycia was full of question marks.

“Leu, you need to cut back on absorbing unnecessary knowledge from my tablet, got it?”
Reiji threw in a retort and went into thought.
“However.....fumu.”
After carefully examining the girls, the **Hero** of 「Liberator」, correction, the NEET **Hero** spoke in a serious tone.
“Is this telling me to pick the one I like from amongst them?”
Before Tifalycia could retort to that inappropriate sentence...
“Wh.....What is this person saying?”
『Flat-chested and unsociable Tsundere』 drew back.
“Ah, Seire-sama told us that saying such impolite things is a no no, remember?”
“Ufufu, that’s right.”
『Twintailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』 and 『Big breasted Onee-san that soothes your soul 』 reminded her...
“B-But.....”
“And didn’t you say that the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 may be your type earlier?”
“Wha──th-that’s!”
“Huh, your face is red, onee-chan.”
“S-Stop it.....”
The blushing 『Flat-chested and unsociable Tsundere』 looked at Reiji bashfully...
“I-It’s not true ok.....!”
And turned her head away.
“Hmm? Then, I shall take him.”
Saying so, the『Twintailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』 hugged Reiji’s arm as if it was natural before Tifalycia or Leu could even react.
“Wai...Wait!”
“Ehe. Hey, Reiji Onii-chan, they’re unexpectedly big, aren't they?”

What are? Before Reiji could ask back, she smiled seductively, stood on her tiptoes, and whispered into his ear.
“Breasts♡”
After saying that, she hugged Reiji’s arm even tighter.
Certainly ── that soft squishy feeling made him realize that she had more of a woman’s allure than a girl’s charm.
“──Oh my. In that case...”
Staying calm throughout the exchange until now...
The『Big breasted Onee-san that soothes your soul 』 hugged his other arm opposite to the 『Twintailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』.
In an instant, Reiji could feel the overwhelming volume.
Words like big or soft were not enough to describe it.
It was a euphoric feeling that could not be described with words.
“How is it? Reiji-sama.”
She narrowed her eyes and gently smiled, while the other two girls started complaining.
“Mu, unfair! There’s no way I can win against that! ──Alright, in that case, I will...”
“.....I’m the flattest anyway. B-But, even I──”
And then, seeing the girls push aside their duty of guiding them to the welcome parade and instead trying various ways to appeal to him...
Reiji started laughing as he could not endure it anymore.
“Hahahaha ── What’s this? A real life galgame?”
Towards Reiji who seemed to have completely ignored the surrounding eyes and just indulged himself as he went with the flow without suspecting anything ── Tifalycia sent a glare, and muttered.
“.....You’re definitely enjoying this no matter how I look at it.”
Could it be that...he really intends to enjoy this virginity stealing battle──

While Tifalycia was thinking about those things, the girls had already held onto him, and had started to move away while flattering him.
“Hey, let’s go to a place where we can be alone together, Reiji Onii-chan.”
“My oh my. Have you already forgotten your job? ──But maybe there is some extra time before then.”
“Wh-What are you saying.....I do know of such places within the palace though.”
“Eh, are we doing 4P? Well, doing that occasionally may also be nice.”
Hearing them openly speaking about such things as if there was only Reiji in their eyes, Tifalycia blushed.
“Wai ── Are they just casually discussing about something dangerous.....!?”
“If you think so, then why don’t you try stopping them?”
“H-However.....As the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」, doing that would be──”
While she was saying all that, Reiji and the girls disappeared before their eyes.
“Eh──”
As Tifalycia opened her eyes wide in astonishment, Leu calmly pointed out.
“Below.”
Looking down at the central garden after she heard that, Tifalycia saw the three girls using their tentacle-like things which had assaulted her last night, entangling Reiji in them as they waved their hands towards her.
“**Ruler** Onee-chan, sorry! I will accompany you in my boy form next time.”
『Twintailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』 spoke as the representative, and they left just like that.
In an instant.

Faster than she could blink her eyes.
“—So.”
Leu appeared from their shadow.
Using the black robe 『Adjacent Darkness』 with only her will, she snatched Reiji back immediately.
“Where is the welcome parade?”
She calmly asked.
◇◆◇
After that, the beautiful girls from 「Sirena」 continued to attack Reiji.
The girls in charge of guiding them to the welcome parade weren’t just those three.
“We have been given the duty of cleansing the precious bodies of our important guests from 「Liberator」.”
Like the 『Prideful ringlets Ojou-sama』 who stripped naked and latched onto Reiji after she brought them to the bath house...
“.....U-Umm...Umm...Uh.....I have come here to ask the **Hero-sama** of 「Liberator」 for help.”
Or the 『Devoted misfortunate girl』 who came to ask for help but offered up her body before they could even give a reply...
“Aah.....**Hero-sama**.....Please, please show me mercy.....I will die if I don’t receive **Hero-sama’s** essence.....”
Or the 『Lustful Denpa girl』 who threw out various strange settings and stretched her hands out directly towards Reiji’s crotch, etc.
He couldn't help but be impressed that they could actually prepare so many different types of girls and held respect for them who used their various traits and methods to try and steal his chastity.
Reiji did not outright reject any single one of them.
In exchange, when they were just about one step away from crossing the line, Leu obstructed them with absolute certainty.
Tifalycia watched that script-like play acting before her with a blank expression, feeling all the more astonished at the unity of the

「Sirena」 as a race.
It was just last night when Taigoubou had talked about the virginity stealing battle.
After that, it was not known how she gave out the instructions, but to be able to organize them with such consistency in just a matter of a few hours could only be described as simply amazing.
She could clearly judge that the 『Resonance』 used by 「Sirena」 was extremely effective in the unification of their intentions.
.....Well, more importantly, she was frustrated that Reiji did not reject any of them and welcomed them no matter what their personalities were.
Like that, while slowly moving in the middle of the street as she rejected the overly enthusiastic hospitality of the girls, Tifalycia spoke to the constantly grinning Reiji.
“.....You seem to be having fun.”
“Ain’t that obvious? No man would not be excited in this kind of situation.”
“Didn't you say that you don’t like matters regarding love or affection?”
“.....? Where do you see any love in this?”
“──Eh?”
He blatantly replied.
Tifalycia became speechless.
She felt that she had just caught a glimpse of Reiji’s core, or rather, there seemed to be a much more fundamental issue──
“What Master is talking about is probably lust. As a living being, even if you feel an attraction towards the opposite sex, it does not necessarily mean that it’s love or affection.”
“Umu, well it may be like that, but.....it feels a little different than simply getting excited due to lust.”
“However, love and affection will definitely contain lust. In other words, love and affection are nurtured through lust.”

“No, does that even make sense? Well, but like this, should I say that I’m excited because I’m popular, or instead for the fact that they are all moving for my sake?”
“.....It doesn’t matter.”
Letting out a sigh, Tifalycia cut off the unproductive conversation going on between those two.
Anyway, she understood that Reiji was simply enjoying the situation that they were in.
She wanted to believe that he was thinking about something like usual, or rather she would be troubled if he wasn’t, but she probably wouldn’t receive an answer even if she asked him seriously.
In that case, it won’t be good if at least I don’t think of something ──
As Tifalycia was thinking about that, Leu suddenly spoke to her.
“I have a good idea. It’s troublesome constantly being attacked like this. A breakthrough is needed. So ── you need to act as bait.”
“Ha? M-Me?”
“In the end, the aim of the 「Sirena」 is Master. They will not harm you. You should take a different route and regroup with us.”
“No, that’s not the case, if it’s about being a bait, then Leu-san also──”
“Can you protect Master?”
“.....Uu.”
It was Leu who was saving Reiji from the dangers all this while. If it weren't for her 『Adjacent Darkness』, they might have already received the finishing blow.
In fact, even this place that they had escaped into that seemed like an alley without any water around was also the result of using 『Adjacent Darkness』 to move around.
“It’s not really a difficult request. You just need to stand out and slightly disturb the pursuers. The title, **Ruler** of 「Liberator」, is useful for this kind of stuff.”

The place the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 was at would be where the **Hero** should be at. Making the opponents think as such and luring them away, while Reiji and Leu move towards a safe location──
It was certainly logical.
It was logical, but...
“There is no time for you to think about it. It will be over if we are found.”
“.....I-I got it.”
Hearing the urging tone, Tifalycia panicked and nodded and moved towards the main street.
After confirming that she left...
“Master come this way.”
Leu grasped Reiji’s hand and advanced in the opposite direction.

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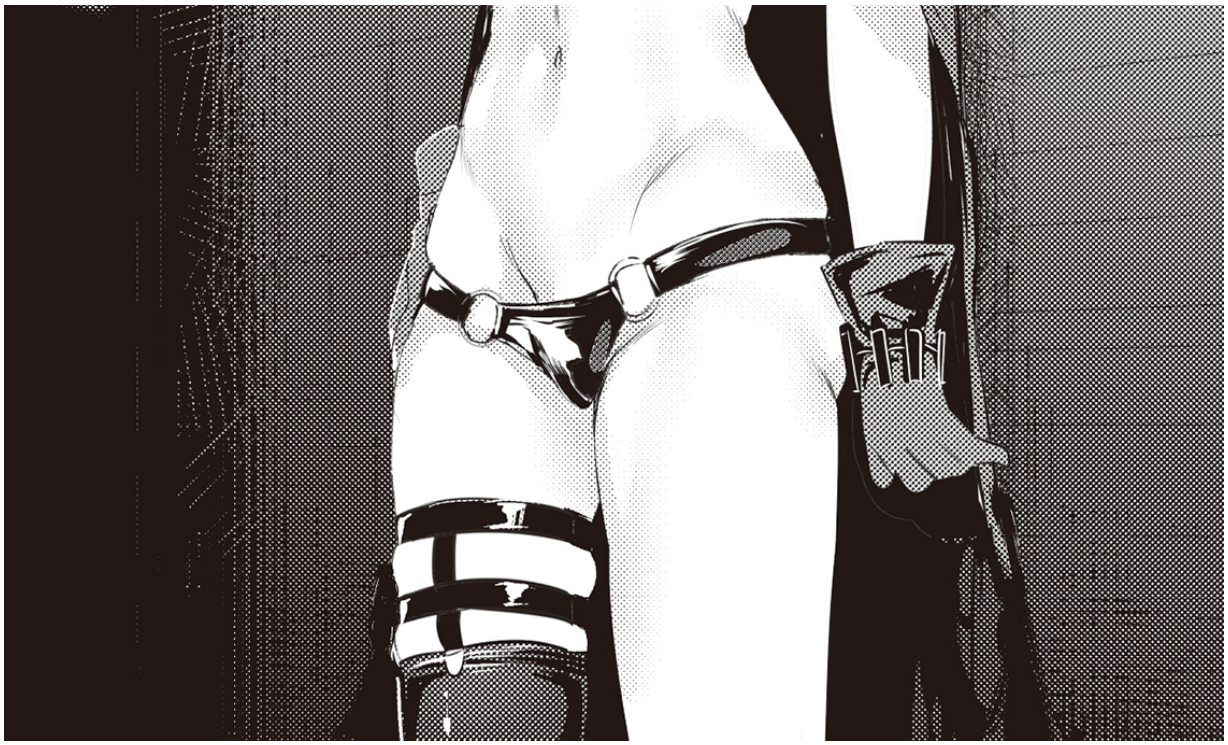
Clamors could be heard coming from the main street.
It was probably due to Tifalycia successfully attracting their attention.
There did not seem to be any sign of them searching through the alleys. They would be able to get away from those girls like this at least, but...
“.....So. What are you doing since just now, Leu-san?”
Further into the alley than before.
At a dead end in the dim alley, Reiji was pushed to the wall by Leu.
It could be considered as a kabedon[1] situation.
Reiji was pushed against the wall, while Leu stuck her body close to him and looked up at him with a fervent gaze.
What took away Reiji’s freedom and restrained his body was 『Adjacent Darkness』, but it was on Leu’s order, so it meant that Leu was the one who took such an action.
Reiji could not understand the reason.....No, he could understand, but he asked to confirm it anyway.
“A good idea.”

“Ah?”
“The 「**Showdown**」 between Master and the 「Sirena」 is for 「Sirena」 to steal Master’s virginity in order to win. In other words...”
“.....If someone other than the 「Sirena」 steals my virginity, then their winning condition will be gone, huh?”
Yes ── If Leu stole Reiji’s virginity, then 「Liberator」 would not lose from that moment onwards.
Therefore, basically...
“With this, even Master cannot refuse.”
Leu showed a triumphant expression, while Reiji started muttering with a stiff face.
“Although it does make sense──”
“Then there is no problem.”
“Being able to assert that ‘there is no problem’ like that is a problem in itself no matter how I think about it though!”
“Master.”
Entangling their arms and legs together, pushing her face closer...
Clanleu Shimishika said in a whisper.
“I am...serious.”
“No, like I said, that kind of objective and the method is ── Mugu!?”
Leu forcefully stole his lips him halfway through, while Reiji could not put up any kind of resistance and could only let her have her way.
Her tongue relentlessly seeked for Reiji in their mouths.
While her nestled body on top of him was petit, he could not help but be conscious of her two elastic like bulges.
When a feeling different from the suffocating restrain started to take over──
“──You better stop it!!”
Reiji forcefully twisted his face away, struggled out and took some distance from Leu. Seeing Leu’s expression that seemed hurt, he scratched his head and spoke.

“Like-I-Said.....How many times do I have to tell you that I am not interested in this kind of love and affection? You better give it up already.”
Blunt and cold words.
In a situation where Reiji could only put it like that, he made a troubled face, then continued as if he did not mind it anymore.
“In the first place, winning with this method has no meaning.”
“.....No...meaning? Winning or losing, isn’t that all there is to it?”
“Normally speaking, yeah.”
Reiji answered as if it was natural, causing Leu to furrow her brows.
“The things that Master is thinking about.....I often cannot understand.”



“Ain’t that obvious? I won’t feel at ease being with someone who understands me inside out.”
“I want to understand. I want to understand Master inside out.”
“.....I think I also told Tifalycia before, but even a child can make it if you just look at the victory or defeat before your eyes. The problem is what comes after that.”
“After...that.....”
“.....Un. No. Like I said, can you stop whispering seriously like this while pushing me down?”
“Since I cannot understand Master using Master’s ways ── I will use my own rules to understand Master.”
“Although you are saying sensible things, it’s just you acting on your desireeees!!”
Leu ignored Reiji’s scream.

If Leu stole Reiji's virginity, then at least 「Liberator」 would no longer lose.
Perhaps that just cause led her to be so forceful about it.
Just when he thought — *She's seriously going for it, no joke*...
"—You two seem to be having quite a lot of fun."
The savior...appeared in the nick of time.
Arms folded, Tifalycia looked down at Reiji and Leu with a stiff face and continued in a low tone.
"Driving me away with a justified reason — did you think that I wouldn't notice it?"
".....You are not as dumb as I thought."
Leu immediately withdrew, and spoke while staring at Tifalycia.
"However, what I said is the truth. If we steal Master's virginity, then this 「**Showdown**」 will be over."
".....Th-that's.....but..."
"The embarrassment only lasts an instant. If you cannot do it, I will."
"Y-You can't! S-Such kind of thing, umm.....b-both parties must confirm their feelings before doing—"
".....Ah, sorry to disturb the heated debate which has left the party concerned alone, but..."
Reiji interrupted with an uninterested voice, and pointed to the road with his thumb while still lying down.
"Pursuers. They are coming, yeah?"
The 「Sirena」 girls that appeared soon afterwards forced the 「Liberator」 party to withdraw immediately.

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Four huge pillars stood at the four corners of the floor, which was made out of a single marble stone.
Surrounding the big circular plaza were the 「Sirena」 girls.
That place, which seemed like the venue for the welcome parade, was full of 「Sirena」.

It was said that in this world, the 「Elf」 would be at the top if talking about handsome men and beautiful women, but seeing that there were only pretty girls in that place, the 「Sirena」 would definitely not fall behind.
From amidst them, Seire and Taigoubou led the most beautiful girls and came closer.
“Yah, morning♪”
“Are you having fun?”
Taigoubou greeted them with a cheerful voice, while Seire spoke elegantly.
Seeing their unchanged attitude as if nothing had happened the previous night, in contrast to Tifalycia who was seemingly confused, Reiji shrugged his shoulders with a mischievous grin.
“So so, I guess. Although continuing with such a straightforward approach wouldn't be a bad idea, if you don’t prepare something unexpected...”
—*Even though you were enjoying it so much just now.....!?*
Tifalycia was about to retort on reflex, but Seire started giggling before she could.
“I’m beat. Those girls should have given it their all, though.”
That...fully confident smile.
Seeing their confident attitude, Tifalycia suddenly felt uneasy.
What is it?
That bad feeling just now.
She wanted to ask Reiji about it, but immediately stopped herself.
She had to think about it herself.
Why Taigoubou, and the rest of the 「Sirena」 were so composed?
Virginity stealing battle. The 「**Showdown**」 that decided the fate of the two races.
Even though all the advances by the 「Sirena」 had failed.
In the first place, Reiji made use of the rules of the **Great Contract Magic** to reject Seire last night.

That’s right, while it was not being used at the moment, but when push comes to shove, Reiji could make use of that absolute rejection.
Even though the 「Sirena」 were in a disadvantageous position from the beginning of the 「**Showdown**」.
Why did Taigoubou pick such a 「**Showdown**」──
“Well, though ── It’s great that Reiji-chi seems to be properly having fun.”
Taigoubou nonchalantly muttered those words.
──Having fun?
The meaning of those words caused Tifalycia to open her eyes wide in surprise.
Turning around, she drew closer to the **Hero** who maintained his grin.
“Reiji.....! Don’t tell me...you cannot use the **Great Contract Magic** anymore.....!?”
“Hmm? You say using **Great Contract Magic**, is there anyone who can do that?”
“Not that! It’s about the Absolute Defense Magic of the Great Principle!”
Under the **Great Contract Magic**, any act of causing harm to another party was forbidden. A defense magic would forcefully activate against anyone who tried to break that absolute law──
As long as one was a resident of this world, regardless of the race, everyone knew about the Great Principle of the **Great Contract Magic**.
Making use of that system, Reiji determined Seire’s act of stealing his chastity to be a 『Harmful Act』, but...
“──Speaking about 『Harmful Act』, it is an unconscious subjective judgement in the end, right?”
As if it was obvious.
The **Hero** of 「Sirena」 spoke cheerfully.

“Therefore, no matter what or how the mind (logic) rejects, if the body (feeling) doesn’t, it won’t activate, so Reiji who is enjoying the current situation obviously cannot make use of that♪”
──As expected.
Seeing those girls making a straightforward approach, Tifalycia did not feel any sort of anxiety.
That was because she saw Reiji’s actions last night.
He rejected Seire by using the **Great Contract Magic**. If that was possible, even without Leu’s obstruction, they would probably not be able to cross that final line.
However, they also understood that.
Even so, they continued to assault Reiji, all to make Reiji enjoy the situation itself.
By enjoying the game itself, the obstinate conscience that Reiji had over his virginity ── the objective of neutralizing that absolute rejection was achieved.
“.....They got us.....”
Seeing Tifalycia mutter in frustration, the person in question, Reiji, spoke as if it was nothing.
“Aah about that. It was obvious that I wouldn’t be able to use that the moment we accepted this game. If not, the 「**Showdown**」 itself couldn’t be established in the first place.”
Hearing Reiji saying that he knew about it from the start, even the last bit of relief deep within Tifalycia’s subconsciousness disappeared.
With that, the advantage they held was gone──
“Well, putting that aside.”
A clear clapping sound echoed.
At that moment, water pillars erupted and formed an arch of light above their heads.
With the artistic water and light magic show as background, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 smiled calmly as if the 「**Showdown**」 never

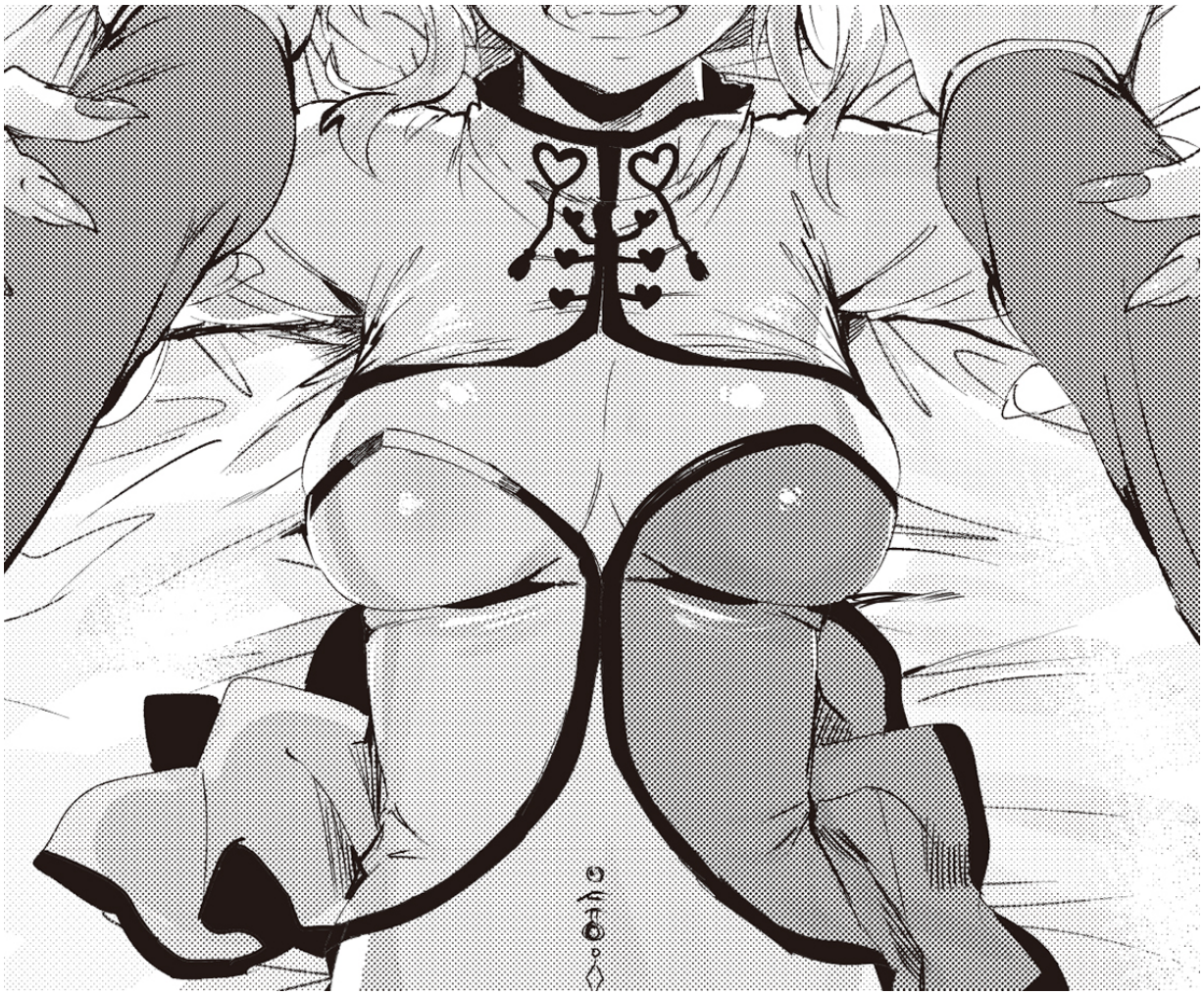
happened.
“Please relax and enjoy.”
She elegantly bowed.
In an instant, a volley of flowers made of light bloomed like fireworks, the girls standing by behind Seire started to dance in unison.
Melody flowed everywhere, accompanied by sighs of admiration.
Light and music. A beautiful scenery monopolizing their sight and hearing.
Tifalycia, who had been shoved to the rural land of Tistel, was probably more susceptible to the thrill of the unknown than normal.
The illusion that the space itself had become a single piece of art immediately robbed away Tifalycia’s ability to think──
“──!”
A strong grip at her wrist quickly brought her back to reality.
It was the black robe Leu used which had grabbed her right hand.
“Wh.....What is it?”
As Tifalycia asked reflexively, she noticed a fragment of emotion, which was unlike her, appearing on Leu's face.
“──Master has...disappeared.”
As she pointed out that fact, Tifalycia’s eyes opened wide.
◇◆◇◆◇
The elk divine beast served Taigoubou in The Creation of the Gods.
Reiji finally understood why the said divine beast was not serious when they left Tistel.
“.....Instantaneous huh.”
Leaving aside Tifalycia, the opening that Leu showed was probably within a millisecond.
In that millisecond of a gap, Taigoubou rode her elk and abducted Reiji to this place.
A dark and narrow room without a single ray of light entering from outside.
A large bed with curtains and a small table occupied half the room.

Books were piled up messily and many strangely flashy small accessories were scattered around.
There was no door, the window was the only entrance to that space.
It seemed to be Taigoubou's private room ── private mansion.
The elk moved way too fast, he was unable to remember the path they took, but he could feel that they moved downwards.
Seeing how the sky was narrow, there could only be one location he could be at.
"──Ehe. Are you surprised that I live in the underground residential area of the 「Infirma」?"
Next to Reiji who was lying face-up on the bed.
She supported her face with her hand and snuggled up close to look at Reiji's face, close to the point that he could hear her breathing.
Reiji readily answered.
"Well, speaking of hermits and taoists, they should live in the Deified Realm ── mountains secluded from civilization."
It was a fact that they gave off a strong image of living on higher grounds.
However, considering the meaning of seclusion from civilization, this place might also fit the description.
Not sure if Taigoubou knew what Reiji was thinking or not, she smiled in satisfaction and whispered.
"Fufu, Reiji-chi sure is honest about such matters."
"Ah? What such matters? There is nobody else who is more honest in various aspects of living than me."
"Eh? I wonder about that?"
A teasing tone.
Narrowing her eyes, she tilted her head, then moved even closer ── and stopped right before their lips were about to touch.
Her hand reached for Reiji's chest as he showed no signs of resistance.

She caressed his skin underneath his clothes without any ulterior motive.
Seeing Reiji frown at the sensation of her cold palm, she licked her lips and sadistically laughed.
“Are you going to continue enduring even though your body is already like this?”
Her whisper was very pleasing.
Unlike those straightforward girls, such actions that could not even be considered teasing, caused Reiji’s heart to beat faster regardless of his own intentions. He ignored it and laughed.
“.....You, aren’t you actually Datsuki[2] and not Taigoubou?”
“Then, maybe Reiji-chi is Chuuou-sama[3]?”
“Haa? I can only be Genshitenson[4].”
“Kyahha, in that case, you should be Shinkouhyou[5]. Even though he shouldn’t be there originally, he gave off a feeling of being added in.”
“Ah, doing whatever he likes , portrayed however the story writer interprets him, he’s certainly the free and easy type. ──Well, I don’t have the intention of being any of the characters in the first place, though.” (TL note: Japan’s version of Shinkouhyou is portrayed differently from the Chinese tale.)
Reiji started laughing aggressively, while Taigoubou stuck to him nonetheless and softly blew at him.
“You seem to be desperately trying to prevent this kind of atmosphere from building up, but ── it’s useless♪”
Her voice.
It gave off a mysterious seductive allure.
“Six Secret Teachings Dragon Strategy Twenty Seventh Chapter.”
Shaking off the sudden whisper which seemed to stab right into his heart instead of entering his ears, Reiji emotionlessly answered.

“──『Victory or defeat all depends on whether you can create an advantageous situation 』”
“Bingo♪”
Taigoubou smiled as if feeling relieved, then spoke.
“I believe that Reiji-chi being so smart should already understand ── ever since the beginning, I have been making moves just for this very scenario.”
From the very beginning.
From the instant she fixed her sights on the **Hero** of 「Liberator」.
As the **Hero** of 「Sirena」, hailed as the incarnation of strategies, the unparalleled tactician, Taigoubou, had been manipulating everything for the current moment.
Suggesting on going with a virginity stealing battle obviously, even leading the topics towards love and affection, observing the behavior and relationships of Reiji and the girls involved, the direct assaults by Seire and the 「Sirena」 girls, checking their reactions to it as well.
Everything was for this situation ── all for the sake of analyzing the **Hero** called Houbami Reiji in detail, and bringing him to a private space for a one-to-one which was most suitable to make him fall.
“The place the hermit lives in ── Deified Realm, can also be called as Utopia.”
Taigoubou’s voice was helplessly comfortable.
Even without using Senjutsu, external information could be fed through the five senses, and greatly affect the mind regardless of the person’s will.
For example, a fragrance with a certain effect, a sound that was played at certain intervals, objects intentionally placed──
If one was able to comprehend, grasp, and make use of those things, it would be possible to guide a person’s mind, Reiji, a specialist in that field, knew that clearly.
The fragrant smell of the incense drowned Reiji’s rationality and logic in a sea of pleasure, small accessories deliberately spread around

the room effectively diverted his concentration which he tried to gather — an absolute euphoric setting orchestrated purely for the sake of Reiji, who as a male, regardless of his own will, would desire for the female before his eyes.
In that place, the switch of logic would be turned off, with only bare desire driving his every action—
“Now — come here.”
Taigoubou spread out her arms and spoke with a gentle voice just like an affectionate mother.
Unable to resist the ferocious instinct that dominated his entire body, Reiji pushed the delicate girl down onto the bed to roughen her up regardless of his own will.
The occasional whimpers were the best melody.
That feeling alone made him feel like he was about to reach the heavens.
Entrusting his body to the exhilarating impulses of pleasure, his hands reached for her clothes while he rode atop her—
And started laughing haughtily.



“.....?”
He laughed and laughed and laughed.
He was helpless as he swung around, unable to control his surging emotions.
The free man brimming with smiles spoke.
“What a coincidence. I’m also the same.”
“.....Eh?”
Seeing her shocked reaction, he shifted his face closer.
Sinking in the joy of conning people, the Good Neighbour (Social Hacker) — the ingenious con artist Reiji (One Sec0nd) curved the ends of his mouth up.
“I’m saying — I have also been preparing for this very scenario.”

Irresistible.
Even if he had to throw away his rationality regardless of his own will.
As long as he could savour the pleasure of having the situation within his expectations, it would be possible for him to control it.
With further external simulation attacking him, he could feel his brain heating up from an unusual level of pleasure, as Reiji mercilessly whispered to the girl below him.
“Didn’t I tell you? The moment I recognized your existence, I read the 『Six Secret Teachings』. Not what’s written in it, you know? It’s the personality of the person who wrote it.”
The unparalleled tactician.
The righteous taoist who sealed the evil deities.
Such superficial stories did not matter to him.
What would that **Hero** think about, what she hated, what she liked, how would she take action?
What Reiji looked at were only those.
The person known as Taigoubou.
“Despite possessing a much higher level of intelligence than normal people, you use flashy decorations to hide your interior, observe the reactions of those surprised by your flashy appearance and analyze them. This is a common tendency among philosophers who are interested in human psychology and behavior principles. Those kinds of people even seek theoretical perfection in their own course of actions ── leading to a very easy and comprehensive result.”
Just like the current situation with her concentrating on Reiji alone.
“And then, it’s very easy to turn the tables against such people by using some of the minor details discarded by them. ──For example, just like this.”
At the same time Reiji whispered that.
She ── appeared from the shadow casted by Reiji.
“It’s your loss.”

The 「Strega」 girl Leu quietly announced.

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“.....Huh? Shouldn’t LeuLeu only be able to move to places she has been to at least once before?”

Staying in the position of being pushed down by Reiji.

Hearing the grumbling question from Taigoubou, the 「Strega」 [Quad-Blood Princess] Clanleu Shimishika spoke.

“──Yes. However, in a way it can be considered that I have come here before.”

“Considered?”

Reiji answered Taigoubou’s doubt.

“You should have already ascertained what can be considered as achieving the 『Come once before』 condition.”

While speaking, Reiji showed his right hand.

Seeing a small piece of black cloth wrapped on his ring finger ── Taigoubou opened her eyes wide.

“.....Aah, so that’s how it is.”

What was wrapped around Reiji’s ring finger was a piece of Leu’s 『Adjacent Darkness』 that could move in the shadows.

In other words.

“So the condition is not for LeuLeu to visit a place beforehand, but rather it's the cloth-chan, huh. I’ve been had.”

Taking a side glance at the sighing Taigoubou, the person who hadn’t spoken yet finally opened her mouth.

“.....However, Reiji did not even tell Leu-san about wrapping that on his finger.”

Tifalycia made a displeased face for some reason and stared at Reiji while pursuing the topic further.

“What were you going to do if Leu-san did not notice it?”

“Eh, it’s useless to think about such an impossible situation.”

The irresponsible **Hero** did not let Tifalycia feel relieved at all.

“Anyway, you are going to say that you don’t care about our worries.....and say that we got worried of our own accord──”
“Un, yeah that’s right.”
“Please don’t go confirming it!”
Seeing Reiji and co starting their usual banter...
“.....Kyahha.”
Still lying on the bed, Taigoubou regrettably spoke.
“It didn’t go well after all huh. Un what a pity♪”
In contrast to the contents, her voice was clearly cheerful.
Tifalycia felt confused by that and secretly observed Reiji's reaction.
Tifalycia herself had absolutely no idea what had happened here.
.....Rather, she thought that Reiji had already crossed the line when she saw the scene before her all of a sudden, but since Taigoubou said 『It didn’t go well』, he probably had not done so.
“It was really close though.....Reiji-chi seems to really like such pleasurable things. Perhaps it might work if I directly appealed more to your rationality?”
“That won’t work. Erotism appeals strongly to the instinct and the feelings. Appealing to rationality instead won’t get you any response.”
“Muu, but then, in Reiji-chi’s case, did the rational pleasure of 『Deceiving people』 overwhelm the erotic appeal to your instincts?”
“Strictly speaking, calling it pleasure already cannot be considered rational. I don’t know if you are saying it from the meta perspective or what, but do you think that you can completely separate instinct and rationality in the first place?”
“I can’t refute anything if you put it like that.”
Taigoubou nodded seriously, then heaved a heavy sigh.
“Well, it’s true that it didn’t go well, I guess I will just obediently give up. ──This time.”
At those words...

“.....? This time?”
Tifalycia reacted to the words her sharp ears picked up at the end and asked back.
“Hmm? Did I say something strange just now? It’s not like this event has any effect on the 「**Showdown**」, you know?”
“———Ha?”
Seeing Tifalycia’s reaction, Taigoubou lifted the corner of her lips.
“Hey hey? Are you perhaps misunderstanding something here? What did I set the conditions of the 「**Showdown**」 as?”
“That’s——”
—— *If Reiji-chi’s first time is stolen before leaving this country, it will be the victory for 「Sirena」, the 「Sirena」 will be the leading side in this alliance. If it’s not stolen, then it will be the victory for 「Liberator」 with you on the leading side.*
“It’s about whether Reiji’s.....vir.....ginity...chastity is stolen or not.”
“Un un. That’s right, that’s right. ——So, did I mention until when?”
“Until...when.....?”
Time limit.
Time limit was——
——*If Reiji-chi’s first time is stolen before leaving this country.*
As Tifalycia repeatedly ruminated over that sentence, she realized it. That they had not finished the 「**Showdown**」yet.
“Ah——”
“Have you understood? As long as you all are still in this country, nothing is decided.”
Taigoubou’s smiling face suddenly looked creepy.
In exchange of Tifalycia who took a step back...
“——Even at this point in time, you really don’t know when to give up.”
Leu was the one who spoke with a cold tone.
Leu’s black robe started sprouting thorns, making her seem irritated. Perhaps, she felt frustrated that Reiji was abducted due to her momentarily letting her guard down.

However, she did not reveal any of that on her face thought, and blandly spoke.
“You...the 「Sirena」, should have realized that you already lost the moment you stated that condition.”
“Eh? What do you mean?”
She tilted her head, and put an index finger on her lips.
Taigoubou first showed an expression that said 『I have no idea what you are talking about』, then struck her palm with her fist and spoke.
“Ah, perhaps, are you talking about making use of that cloth-chan to get out in an instant?”
Shshshsh.
Leu’s robe became more rowdy, not because it was astonished at the fact that it was being pointed out.
It was because her tone was clearly provoking.
However, she stuck out her tongue as if not noticing anything...
“Ah sorry sorry. I just thought that you wouldn’t do that kind of boring thing, so I forgot♪”
Towards Taigoubou who hinted 『You won’t do that right?』...
“No? I’m using it though?”
Reiji answered without any shame.
“Well, I do want to see the magnificent tactics that you have planned out, other than that——”
He peeked at Tifalycia after pausing for a bit.
“——There were things I wanted to check out with my own eyes, so I stayed behind. Since I have achieved both of my objectives for now, there’s no reason not to use it.”
“Ehh.....I think it’s better if you don’t do that.”
As if she was like Reiji.
Seeing the giggling Taigoubou, Tifalycia’s sense of incongruity increased.
What was she...

What was she trying to say?
“Certainly.....in the perspective of 「Sirena」, you would be troubled if we used that.”
Tifalycia herself had been neglectful.
Due to the condition of the 「**Showdown**」 being what it was, 「Sirena」 would win if they took his virginity, while 「Liberator」 would win if it was not taken, she had not paid attention to the proper winning condition.
However...
“No no that’s not what I mean ── You can’t use it anyway.”
At the same time as she said that.
『Adjacent Darkness』 made one big tremble.
Then it transformed into an ominous shape, as if implying that it was about to deal a fatal blow to her anytime.
“.....Master.”
Towards Leu who muttered that short word...
“Nn. It’s fine.”
Reiji immediately replied.
The black robe stretched out and covered Leu’s body, then its figure sank into the darkness──
Nothing happened.
“.....”
Once again, the black robe did the same thing and Leu tried diving into the shadow ── but could not.
No matter how many times she tried to dive into the shadow, she continued to fail.
Tifalycia watched that incomprehensible phenomenon with astonishment and finally let out those words.
“Wh──What are you...doing.....?”
Could it be?
Could it be that──
The person who answered that question was not the wide-eyed Leu.

“You can’t use it right♪”
Taigoubou’s lips curved into a smile, she then got off from the bed and spread open her arms.
“Because ── I have forbidden it.”
She stuck out her tongue.
Tifalycia saw the 『Three Convened Jade』 shining brightly on her chest and became speechless.

◇◆◇

The Capacità possessed by the **Heroes** who were summoned to the Universal Paradise (Aquatera Realm), **Realtà**.
Like Napoleon (Pauline), the **Hero** of 「Beastia」, who used the absolute command authority 「**Impossibile does not exist** (Impossible n’est pas francais)」 with conditions attached, those who had alternated the history in their original world could make use of the power of **Destiny** to demonstrate special magical abilities, which represented the **Heroes** themselves.
Taigoubou had many significant influences in military arts and future militants in history, was highly active in strategy making within the Deified Realm in stories.
The **Realtà** she possessed was...
“「**Spilled Water is Hard to Retrieve**」 ── I call it the 「**Absolute Single Use Ability**」 though.”
「**Spilled Water is Hard to Retrieve**」 ── It meant 「**Water that is spilled out already is difficult to recollect**」.
That idiom was a famous quote passed down by Taigoubou in history.
The water that was spilled from a bowl could not return to it again.
What was done once could not be done again.
In other words.
“Abilities that are used once before me ── be it magic or **Realtà**, will become unable to be used again. Cause everything can only be used once in nature♪”

As Taigoubou was smiling cheerfully, Leu tried using her 『Adjacent Darkness』 many times, but the result never changed.
It moved according to Leu's will. Its shape could transform as many times as it wanted. However, only moving within shadow could not be done.
Most likely, unless Taigoubou cancelled the restriction herself, usage of any ability would be forbidden.
Such an effect was very significant.
".....Seriously, **Realtà** is such a cheat that I can do nothing but admire it."
"I would be embarrassed if you praise me that much you know?"
"I'm not praising you."
Taigoubou made a peace sign towards Reiji's sarcasm.
With that, 「Liberator」 had lost their method of escape from this country ── equalling to losing their way of fulfilling the victory condition.
"I said it just now, I ── We have been making preparations for this scenario. Therefore..."
At the same time as Taigoubou changed her posture of holding her fishing rod...
Several girls entered the room riding on Elk's back.
They were──
"We meet again, Onii-chan♡"
With the intimately smiling 『Twintailed Loli Imouto with an impish nature』 at the lead, they were the persistent girls who attacked Reiji straightforwardly.
".....There's no creativity."
Reiji gave a sarcastic comment, while Taigoubou composedly smiled and spoke.
"Is that so? By the way, LeuLeu won't be able to use Cloth-chan to save you anymore."
Taigoubou nonchalantly spoke and looked at Leu.

“.....”
She opened her eyes wide as she finally comprehended that all the abilities of her 『Adjacent Darkness』 were sealed.
“──Don’t you dare lay a finger on the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 ── Ah!?”
Tifalycia who stood before Reiji was easily neutralized by the tentacles those girls controlled.
“Now that your only chance at victory is gone, what’s left is our victory only.....you see♪”
As if Taigoubou’s speech was the signal...
“Now **Hero-sama**.....With us ── let’s feel good together.”
The 『Big breasted Onee-san that soothes your soul 』 already closed in and stole his lips ── right before she was about to...
Bathump.
The 『Big breasted Onee-san that soothes your soul 』 trembled, blinked her eyes as if she couldn't comprehend what just happened.
“──.....? Nn.....wh-wh.....ah...y.....”
The waves of pleasure repeatedly surging up from deep within her body caused her to twist her body and her expression melted──
“Kuu...nn...ah...aaaaaaaAAAAAH!”
And she climaxed.
Pushing aside the girl who lost strength in her knees and leaned towards him, Reiji’s lips curved up and he coldly declared.
“If you want to feel good so much ── enjoy it alone.”
Saying so, he walked towards the girls who were confused about what had happened ── and accurately caressed their precious spots.
“Nn──ah...aAAAH!” “Kuh──Fuu...NNaAH!” “──ah...HaAH!”
“.....Ah...NnnnAAAAAAAH!”
Watching those girls twisting their expressions in pleasure and collapsing one after another...
The **Hero** of 「Sirena」 finally understood what Reiji did.

“———Don’t tell me.....Mana spot?”
Anyone who possessed mana had a mana spot, an organ that was unique to the races of this world.
The higher the amount of mana one possessed, the more sensitive that spot would be. It also functioned as an erogenous zone, its location varied from race to race, and even individual to individual. It was impossible to grasp the location for anyone except their partners —— or so should have been the case.
“When you want to observe someone, you should first and foremost take notice of that person’s subconscious actions.”
As the last girl fell, Reiji said those words at the same time.
“If you regard consciousness as light, subconsciousness as darkness, then look at the darkness. Do that and the light will definitely reveal itself —— like this.”
Because he was the Good Neighbour (Social Hacker) who observed, analyzed, and manipulated other peoples’ actions —— it was extremely easy for him to discover the things that the other party wanted to hide.
The reason why it was so easy was because it was practically a daily routine for him.
With his back facing those girls who were lying on the floor agonizing over the pleasure with some even fainting from it, Reiji casually spread his arms open.
“Being conscious about wanting to make the other party feel good is fine, but wouldn’t it be a problem if they became careless of themselves when providing said service? And more importantly —— reaching the conclusion that our side’s winning condition disappearing would equal to losing.”
An annoyed attitude.
Words that contained some joking element.
Staring straight at her —— eyes that were not laughing.

The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 who subjugated the girls with just his right hand.
“──Kyahha♪”
Taigoubou curved the corners of her lips upward.
“I would never think that way with Reiji-chi as the opponent. Just that, well──”
She swung her fishing rod while speaking.
A sudden gust blew away one side of the wall ── and revealed the inner room.
“Reiji-chi should be the one not jumping to conclusions here, right?”
Along with her light-hearted words, faint light brightened the area, revealing various 「Sirena」 girls standing by.
That itself was not something to be surprised about. It would be unnatural to think that she had not prepared at least that much.
Therefore, the problem was...
“Wh──What’s with that number?”
Tifalycia was astonished at observing over a hundred girls moving towards them as far as she could see.
As if to represent those girls, the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 smiled.
“I see, Reiji-chi is actually a lady-killer who can handle a certain number of simultaneous assaults, and even counter assault ── However, then, I wonder how it will turn out when that number changes to dozens, hundreds of them♪”
“.....That kind of question cannot even be established.”
No matter how excellent the technique he possessed, even if his technique could be praised as one tier higher than others, it could only be used on an individual.
Using anti-individual technique against an army would be a category error (not even worth mentioning) in short.
“If individual won’t do then multiple, if multiple won’t do then even greater quantity. 「Sirena」 has lesser population compared to other

races, but ── isn’t that already enough to swallow Reiji-chi and you girls up?”
Pushing an index finger under her chin, Taigoubou humorously winked at them, making Tifalycia feel a chill run down her spine.
──She was really preparing for this situation from the start.
Originally, when making a contract related to the entire race, the more important the content, the more unlikely was the non-violent diplomatic method.
Because there were things that they would never compromise on, in order to push through their own opinion, they would often end up using the last method of having a **Heroic War**.
Normally, even the alliance between 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」 this time should have resulted in that.
However, it did not turn out like that, and ended up being a game to steal Reiji’s chastity, a peaceful method at a glance.
Originally, if they were getting assaulted by over a hundred 「Sirena」 citizens, there was no way the Great Principle of the **Great Contract Magic** would not activate.
However, since it was part of a peaceful game and Reiji himself was enjoying it and accepted it, the activation of the absolute defense magic became impossible.
That’s right, it was made impossible.
By none other than her.
“Nn? What is it♪”
The brighter and more cheerfully Taigoubou smiled, the scarier she looked to Tifalycia.
And by her hands, the 「**Showdown**」 was about to be decided──
Before that.
“──Hah, oi oi you got it wrong after all.”
Reiji...
Annoyedly shrugged his shoulders.
As if he had always been waiting for that moment ── he grinned.

“I see, certainly, it has become a little troublesome to achieve our side’s winning condition. That is not wrong. Seriously makes me want to slack off when thinking about that.”
He heaved out his usual listless sigh, but more than that, his mouth curved into a crescent moon shape from the joy that he felt from the bottom of his heart.
“So, what about you? How are you going to achieve your victory condition?”
That question...
Made everyone in that place except Reiji frown.
When everyone was thinking about why he was asking such an obvious question...
“Hey Tifa. How do you think you can achieve it?”
“Wh──Why did you throw the question at me?”
Tifalycia was confused when she was called out, and also due to being called Tifa, she spoke a little quickly.
“There’s no need to make me say such embarrassing things at this point in time──”
“Not that. That’s not what I mean. ──But well, let’s see. I want to ask you what that embarrassing thing is in detail.”
Reiji snickered, while Leu immediately continued.
“When Master and a 「Sirena」 girl have intercourse ── the instant when they have sex.”
Hearing Leu saying it out without a tint of embarrassment, Tifalycia blushed.
Then, before she could complain...
“Un un, since we are talking about losing chastity here, that’s what’s going to happen. Because that is the case, it is absolutely impossible for 「Sirena」.”
“Absolutely impossible for 「Sirena」.....?”
“Kyahha, isn’t that a little too hard to believe? In fact, when this number of people assault you, even Reiji-chi──”

“If you think so, then just try it. Since it’s impossible.”
An attitude that could only be seen as a provocation.
Hearing Reiji’s sarcastic tone, Taigoubou narrowed her eyes.
“──You cannot regret it later, alright?”
She swung her fishing rod.
The girls immediately rushed towards Reiji the male ── and collapsed right in the next instant.
Not only that, they witnessed a situation where even the girls standing by at the back twisted their faces in ecstasy without Reiji even touching them, and had trouble standing.
“.....What is...this?”
She could not comprehend it.
With his sharp observation ability, Reiji could locate the 『Mana Spot』, and neutralize them by stimulating those areas. However, that was only when it was an individual to individual case.
It was physically impossible to handle that many people, and how did those who were not touched by Reiji fall in the first place──
.....They fell without Reiji touching them?
“──Don’t tell me!”
“Correct, **Hero** of 「Sirena」.”
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 stroked their 『Mana Spot』 in pursuit, and spoke with the girls falling like dominos as background.
“『Resonance』. If we forcefully switch on their pleasure switch, the 「Sirena」 will resonate on their own. Didn’t I tell you that? Being conscious about wanting to make the other party feel good is fine, but it would be a problem if they became careless of themselves when providing said service. ──Well, it’s also because I have controlled them to experience a pleasure beyond their expectations though.”
Living things that possessed emotions were weak against unknown and unexpected stimulations.

And then, even if they could judge the pleasure they would receive based on someone else's reaction, they would still not be able to accurately imagine the level of pleasure that they themselves would experience.
Furthermore, as they did not expect to be on the receiving end, the ultimate pleasure that they all achieved through the chain effect could literally bring them to heaven.
Seeing Reiji composedly standing there pointing at the fallen girls, Taigoubou bit her lip and spoke.
“Even so.....why is Reiji-chi not affected, I don’t get it.”
The 『Resonance』 used by the 「Sirena」 did not only affect the 「Sirena」.
If anyone came into contact with the fluid they excreted at that time, they would also share the sensation.
Of course, as the fluid vaporized, breathing in the air alone was enough to be affected. In other words, everyone at that place received the effect.
In fact, it was obvious seeing Tifalycia who had already dropped to the ground and Leu who was resisting the pleasure with a burning red face, even Taigoubou also could not deny her own body heating up.
Why was it only Reiji?
As the only male, being surrounded by all the girls, Reiji should be the one who should be finding it most difficult to resist the temptation, why could he still stand there so composed──
“Like I said, you are mistaken. What did I define virginity as?”
“.....Define?”
Reiji’s...
What did Reiji say in that idiotic speech?
──*That’s why, in order to protect the holy territory known as fantasy from the temptation, seduction, and charm of the devil known as reality, virgins will absolutely not fall before a woman!*

“Kyahha.....Are you saying that that kind of lip service speech actually works?”
“Obviously not. It works because I believe it from the bottom of my heart.”
“—”
That was not intended as a joke going along with the flow, nor an impromptu excuse or a theoretical hypothesis.
Because the **Hero** known as Houbami Reiji had believed it from the bottom of his heart in his everyday life, no matter what kind of temptation there was, he would absolutely not fall.
“.....That’s a lie.”
It was unbelievable no matter what he said.
Even if he mentioned that it was already known, even if it was within expectations, there was no way rationality could suppress feelings. A person who could do that was already not a human.
.....Not...a human?
The words Taigoubou had casually thought of gave her a lightning-like jolt.
For example.
For example, like a hermit who had reached enlightenment after obtaining the fruits of his cultivation.
The will of a person who seeked and researched with only a single goal — would be unmovable no matter what kind of disturbance there was.
Could it be that the **Hero** standing before her had already reached that state?
“.....No no no.”
Taigoubou shook her head to get rid of the stupid idea and rearranged her thoughts.
No matter what, it was a fact that Reiji was not affected by the temptations.
With a firm conviction, he remained standing.

Regardless of the reason, that alone was the solemn truth.
“By the way, our winning condition is much simpler than you think, you know? Since we just need to get out of here.”
“.....Fufu, that’s pushing it a little, Reiji-chi. The 「Strega」 LeuLeu has formed a contract that forbids the usage of magic, the [Absence] TifaTifa doesn’t have mana in the first place──”
“Unfortunately, Tifalycia has a『Mana Spot』.”
As Reiji said so, Leu poked Tifalycia’s ‘that spot’.
“──Hyiiuu!? P-Please don’t do that all of a sudden!!”
Ignoring Tifalycia’s loud complaint, Reiji lightly brought his right hand forward.
“As shown in the ancient [Seventh], in a pure comparison of strength, 「El Blanche」 will overwhelm the rest, in a comparison of magic, 「Strega」 will definitely not fall behind. There is such a magic expert and a closet pervert with just plenty of mana here. Now, with this many cards on your hands ── how will you escape this situation?”
Like a casino dealer, Reiji made a courteous bow.
Taigoubou looked at Leu and the black robe wrapped around her body, then spoke out the obvious answer.
“.....Like teaching TifaTifa how to use the 『Adjacent Darkness』, by LeuLeu.”
Magical Artifact, a magical tool that could be used by responding to magic.
If the user was changed, the **Magical Artifact** would be recognized as a new ability, and escape from Taigoubou’s **Realtà 「Spilled Water is Hard to Retrieve**」 which forbade repeated usage.
Of course, even though he overthrew the premise of [Absence] having no mana, it did not mean that she could use a **Magical Artifact** which required an enormous amount of mana and technology equivalent to magic. Hence, there was no knowing how long it would take.

However, Tifalycia was also a miko who had performed the ritual magic of hero summoning before becoming the **Ruler**. She might just be able to get the knack of it quickly.
Then, the 「Liberator」 would stand at a greater advantage compared to the 「Sirena」 that had their numerical advantage work against them.
“Well, there’s no need to use that troublesome method though. For example, the gate we passed through when you brought us here. There wouldn’t be only a single one right? Since this place is built as a sightseeing spot for other races, I don’t think you have to use Senjutsu for every little thing. 「Infirma」 being here means that there is a need to have a passage for them to go through. There is no way that they must ask for permission for that kind of matter. Wouldn’t I be able to find out if I just ask the 「Infirma」 around?”
“_____”
“Of course, there’s no way you had not expected that so you must have made preparations beforehand. Though that can easily be deduced since you only prepared for the 「Infirma」 beforehand, and as long as there’s a gate to the outside, there are a number of other ways to get there. Like——”
One by one.
As Reiji listed out the ways of escaping, Taigoubou unusually lost her expression.
Of course, she obviously had more cards in her hand.
Even if the numerical advantage was gone, there was still the geographical advantage. As long as she aimed for the gap of her opponent, or fought a battle of attrition, there was still a possibility.
However, the sure win scenario she had put in all her effort to prepare, guide, and create...
Were all broken down easily by him.
And in a way that was beyond her imagination.
“.....I say, Reiji-chi.”

When she realized...
Taigoubou had unconsciously said those words.
“Who ── are you exactly?”
Those words did not seem to contain any hidden meaning.
Even Taigoubou herself did not know why she asked that question, while the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 just showed an unmotivated grin.
“I’m just a NEET. I don’t do things I don’t want to do, I only do things I want to do, a person who wants to live freely in this world. ──Well, due to that, I can comprehend a little of others who wanted to live freely, that I am aware of.”
His sharp glare was in contrast with his relaxed expression.
She felt that his incomprehensible atmosphere could swallow her up──
“──I’m beat.”
A clear voice...
Was heard from the back of the rows of girls.
The girls parted to the left and right, and the person who quietly walked through the path naturally was...
“.....Seire Euphonia.”
As Tifalycia muttered her name, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 returned an elegant smile and looked straight at the **Hero** of 「Liberator」.
“Looks like you are just as you were rumored to be.”
Being praised by the leader of the 「Sirena」, Reiji laughed like he was relieved.
“Oi oi, don’t praise me like that. ──Well, it’s the truth though!”
“This person.....”
Reiji puffed out his chest without reading the mood, Tifalycia retorted in astonishment, Seire covered her mouth and giggled.
“To think that it really became like this.....just like what Ryo-chan told me.”
That unexpected whisper...
“.....Just like what Taigoubou said?”

“Ufufufufufu.”
Hearing Tifalycia’s mutter, Seire smiled.
Smiled. Smiled. Smiled.
She smiled as if she was full of confidence that she knew everything — and looked at her **Hero**.
“As expected of Ryo-chan.”
“—Right?”
Taigoubou received her gaze with a smile and then pointed towards the sky...
“That’s why...I’m glad — for doing this first...that is.”
At the same time she finished speaking.
The sky above their heads — The ocean disappeared, and the real sky further above appeared.
The phenomenon probably happened in the entire world at the same time, there was no way Tifalycia could forget it.
Heroic War, the only battle between conflicting races where the non-violence limitation was removed.
What was written on the huge magic formation that spread out in the center of the **Great Contract Magic** was...
“—「Sirena」 Taigoubou VS 「El Blanche」 Jeanne d’Arc.....!?”

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1 Kabedon - http://yabai.com/p/2703 ↩

2 Datsuki - 妲己 (だつき) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daji ↩

3 Chuuou - 紂王 (ちゆうおう)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Zhou_of_Shang ↩

4 Genshitenson - 元始天尊 (げんしてんそん)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuanshi_Tianzun ↩

5 Shinkouhyou - 申公豹 (しんこうひよう)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shen_Gongbao ↩

Chapter 6 - NEET Laughs

「Sirena」Taigoubou
VS
「El Blanche」 Jeanne d’Arc
Field: Watatsumi Palace
Victory Condition: Subjugation of the enemy **Hero**
Victory Reward: 「Sirena」 Cession of Enteres Island
「El Blanche」 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」
“Wh.....What is.....”
What is happening——
Tifalycia muttered in astonishment.
“Why is.....「El Blanche」 having a.....**Heroic War** with.....
「Sirena」? A-At this timing? .....The stage is Watatsumi Palace?
And also, why is the victory reward set as the 『Race Flag』 of
「Liberator」——”
Even though she followed Reiji’s advice and recollected the points of concern, her head could not keep up anymore.
The facts were beyond Tifalycia’s analyzing ability, so she could only keep asking why.
In contrast to Tifalycia who could not comprehend a thing and yet could not shift her gaze away from the sky...
“.....I see.”
Reiji’s calm muttering looked more reliable than ever.
Observing him, it seemed like he understood everything, so the strong desire to unveil all the mysteries drove Tifalycia to almost ask him all her questions on reflex.

—*No*.
She shook her head.
I cannot. Nothing will change if I just ask him.
Tifalycia stopped in her tracks at the last moment, took a deep breath, gathered her little remaining rationality, and desperately tried to analyze their situation.
The unbelievable situation they were in was an incomprehensible fact itself.
Why is the 「Sirena」 able to provide the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 as the victory reward in the ***Heroic War****?*
Tifalycia unconsciously touched the crude collar on her own neck — the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」, and her body tensed up.
In the first place, the『Race Flag』 should only be handed to the alliance partner after the alliance had been established.
Even if the 「Sirena」 would form an alliance with 「Liberator」in the future, they had not done so currently.
In that case, the 『Race Flag』 should still belong to 「Liberator」.
Therefore, the victory reward the 「El Blanche」 wanted would be invalid, and the **Heroic War** itself could not be held.
It should not be possible to establish it..
However, the **Heroic War** was indeed established.
In other words, the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 had somehow been passed on to 「Sirena」.
Then, using the 『Race Flag』 as bait, the 「Sirena」 involved the 「El Blanche」, and made the outcome of the fight against 「Liberator」 unsettled—
“I think TifaTifa might have the wrong idea there?”
Taigoubou suddenly interrupted, causing Tifalycia to raise her face.
Next to the always cheerful girl...
Seire smiled elegantly, and continued the words of her **Hero**.
“Why are we so persistent on forming an alliance with 「Liberator」?”

“Insisting on...an alliance.....?”
“We have never once mentioned the possibility of not forming an alliance with 「Liberator」, right?”
Certainly, the 「Sirena」 had been vague about the contents of the alliance, but they had never mentioned anything about not wanting to form an alliance.
Rather, the conversation with them had forming an alliance as the premise.
“B-But the alliance is yet to be formed──”
“Try to recall. When I was explaining the virginity stealing battle, what were the conditions set?”
──If Reiji-chi’s first time is stolen, it will be the victory for 「Sirena」, and 「Sirena」 will be the dominant side in this alliance.
“Ah────”
She certainly said that.
She clearly said that they would form an alliance.
“Look, didn’t TifaTifa also say that when you challenged Reiji-chi to a 「**Showdown**」?”
While spinning her fishing rod...
The **Hero** of 「Sirena」 who should not have been at that place spoke.
“{ the instant the 「**Showdown**」 is established, my objective is automatically achieved (I win)} ──Like that.”
Like how Tifalycia had challenged Reiji to a 「**Showdown**」, and the instant the 「**Showdown**」 was established, the real objective was achieved.
The moment the 「**Showdown**」 for the leadership of the alliance (Reiji’s virginity stealing battle) was established, the 「Sirena」 had already achieved their original objective of obtaining the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」──
In other words, the 「Sirena」...

“Since the beginning, your objective was to obtain the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」.....?”
“Nope.”
Reiji immediately denied it.
Tifalycia looked at her **Hero** in confusion.
“What these girls did is a lot more hideous. It will be fine and all if they could obtain the dominance in the alliance with 「Liberator」, but once that possibility is slightly shaken, they will just sell out the alliance matter to another race, it’s a two-stage plan.”
Two-stage plan.
The 「Sirena」 saw 「Liberator」 as a nuisance. However, they flipped their attitude when they realized that it would be easy to make use of 「Liberator」, and intended to form an alliance.
Then when they saw that they could not shape the alliance to be advantageous for themselves, they would sell it to another race at a high price — a race that also saw 「Liberator」 as a nuisance.
Originally, the side that was challenged to a **Heroic War** could voice out 『Unable to accept the condition』 and refuse it for any reason they wanted.
Therefore, the 「Elf」 could continue to exist despite having the disadvantage of not having a **Hero**, and 「Liberator」 would not get crushed instantly despite having no national power.
The races that were in these kinds of disadvantageous situations would never agree to a **Heroic War** that they knew they had no chance of winning without any special circumstances.
A special circumstance like an alliance that is formed by a race that is desperate due to their financial crisis, in exchange for their 『Race Flag』.
In order to create such a circumstance, 「Sirena」 and 「El Blanche」 had come to an agreement beforehand.
However, even so, there was still a mountain of problems that were still unresolved.

“Why...the **Heroic War**—”
A contract that concerned the entire race could be resolved between the **Rulers** if both sides had no issue. If the contents are accepted by both races, there was no need to purposely hold a **Heroic War**. Even though **Heroic War** should only be the last method—
“That’s because this way works better for them.”
“Works better.....?”
“The 「El Blanche」 want the other races to acknowledge them as the『World Administrator』. They will appeal to others in the form of an overwhelming victory in a **Heroic War**. If they say that they rescued 「Liberator」 from 「Sirena」, their image will further be improved. On the other hand, the peace advocating 「Sirena」 losing the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 in the **Heroic War** will also support their non-violent peace advocating image to other races, allowing them to move more conveniently.”
“B-But aren’t those two claims the opposite of—”
“It’s fine being opposite. Those other irrelevant races will only believe what they want to believe anyway. What’s important is that both of the claims are sensible on the surface. As long as they are sensible, they can say anything they want. And then, more importantly — compared to making contracts in secret, doing things like this will actually give a better impression.”
“Impression.....just for that kind of a thing...”
“That kind of a thing is one of the most important matters. Didn’t I say it many times before? Intel controls everything.”
Be it 「Sirena」 or 「El Blanche」.
Not just looking at the fight before one’s eyes. One always had to think about how to move afterwards.
And Tifalycia was caught in that flow.
“By the way, since the alliance has been formed, our 『Race Flag』 will also belong to 「Liberator」, so you may keep it or sell it to other races, feel free to use it as you like♪”

“──”
Different from 「Liberator」, 「Sirena」 had no need to form an alliance with other races in the first place, furthermore, they had no intention of competing against other races, so it did not matter where their 『Race Flag』 ended up at.
No matter which race they were forced to form an alliance with, it would not be a problem to them.
In the first place, once the **Hero** himself/herself stood on the stage, the 『Race Flag』 became an unimportant thing.
Unable to sustain their kingdom without forming an alliance with another race, making the 『Race Flag』 necessary for that very sake ── only 「Liberator」 were in such a precarious situation, forcing them to take on a disadvantageous negotiation with an opposing race to retrieve their 『Race Flag』.
“That’s why I said it would be better to obediently form an alliance with us.”
As Taigoubou expressed her dejection, Reiji casually spoke.
“So you’re saying, rather than being uprooted by the 「El Blanche」 in an instant, it’s better to be slowly squeezed dry by the weaker 「Sirena」?”
“What an awful thing to say, Reiji-chi. ──Isn’t making a pre-emptive strike a staple war tactic?”
“I understand very well that we 「Sirena」 are a weak race. To make up for that very weakness, we’ve simply relied on an external force, that’s all there is to this.”
“Yeah yeah♪ ──It would be too late once the cup gets overturned.”
Spilled water could not be retrieved.
In that case, they had to make a move before it was spilled──
It was certainly a sound argument. A sound argument, but...
“Using your weakness as justification for despicable means ── so there are also these kinds of peace advocates.”

Hearing Reiji’s sarcasm, Taigoubou and Seire just cheerfully laughed.
“We should have said it before.”
“What we are concerned about ── is only ourselves from the very beginning.”
“We would form an alliance if it went well, if it didn’t...”
Taigoubou took a step to the side, and looked up naturally.
“We will just pass the rights of the alliance to the race that wants it ── like this♪”
As she said that...
Suddenly appearing in the sky, a being with two wings spread out like the God’s emissary, landed on the ground of the underwater city ── right in between Taigoubou and Seire.
The girl who was wrapped in a monochrome costume folded her wings and put her hands before her thighs.
With her light purple hair fluttering about, she bowed.
Her heterochromatic pupils, asymmetrical white and black wings could not help but stand out.
“──I have ARRIVED.....at this place to WITNESS the fulfillment of the CONTRACT.”
She awkwardly spoke.
That appearance...
More importantly, the wings at her back ── caused Tifalycia to open her eyes wide.
“Don’t tell.....me...”

“「El Blanche」...huh.”
Reiji continued her words quietly, and the girl displayed a business smile...
“YES. I.....I[1] am the head miko of [Association Du Ciel] from 「El Blanche」...called Alpha Stasis. Pleased to make...your

ACQUAINTANCE.”
She made a deep bow.
◇◆◇
When he first arrived to this world.
After learning about the **Great Contract Magic** that was created by the six races.
What Reiji had wondered right at the start was 『Why make such a meaningless thing』.
The trigger to create the **Great Contract Magic** was the war before it — [Seventh].
In that war, it was obvious that only one race would be able to obtain the world.
Leaving mana aside, not only did they own high performance physical bodies, they also possessed the sorcery 『Prophecy』 which allowed them to see into the future. The 「El Blanche」 had caused the world to be destroyed six times over.
Openly crowning themselves as the messengers of God, proclaiming that they came from a dimension more prestigious than the earth — a race that named themselves the messengers from the skies.
Graceful and elegant, hypocritically courteous, if they were to be put in a traditional race uniting game, they would undoubtedly be the last boss race, and should be the last obstacle towards the ultimate NEET life that Reiji aimed for, however...
“To think that...the agent of that 「El Blanche」 is a loli sister.....”
“———Ha?”
Right before the girl who blinked her eyes — Alpha Stasis, Reiji dove into deep thought.
“No wait, is it suitable to treat her appearance as a ‘sister’ in the first place? She certainly is the miko of god (Sister), but if it isn’t monotheism then she can’t be a sister. The seven races should have their own concept of god, then since each of them have their own religion—”

Seeing Reiji mutter such nonsensical things with a serious mood, Tifalycia unconsciously relaxed...
“Umm Reiji.....now isn’t the time to talk about those things──”
Despite knowing that it would be useless, she still tried to remind him.
“What the heck is this person blabbering about.....”
Hearing the agent of 「El Blanche」 muttering so with a serious face, Tifalycia opened her eyes wide.
“Eh.”
“Eh?”
“Just now.....what did you?”
She seemed to hear something unlike what the graceful and elegant, hypocritically courteous 「El Blanche」 would say──
“──Ah, e-erm.....I didn’t say ANYTHING?”
Alpha covered up with a smile.
That obviously faked smile froze the mood.
“.....Last minute pretense.”
Leu whispered, and Reiji deepened his grin.
“Well, that is that ── is it fine to treat you as the representative of the 「El Blanche」?”
Hearing Reiji’s casual words, Alpha clearly sighed in relief and nodded...
“Heh, so basically, the great 「El Blanche」 did not even send out the **Ruler**, let alone a **Hero** for a **Heroic War**, and left everything to a mere miko huh.”
Just listening to those thorny words felt painful.
The girl’s expression became stiff for a moment, then she slowly formed a smile.
“──YES. You are correct to interpret it like THAT.”
Not only was the sarcasm directed at the 「El Blanche」, Alpha who had been sent here was also mocked.
She seemed to not mind it and continued on with her fake smile.

“IN THE FIRST PLACE, this **Heroic War** has been promised to be over IMMEDIATELY. I have been sent here only TO watch over the CEREMONY.”
Her gaze turned towards Seire and Taigoubou next to her...
“—That’s right.”
The **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 casually responded.
—Yes.
The **Heroic War** that betted the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 was over without even a single confrontation, let alone a battle between the **Heroes**.
As long as the objective of the 「Sirena」 was to sell the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 to 「El Blanche」,「Sirena」 just had to say {I surrender} and the objective would be achieved.
What the two races needed was just to go through with the **Heroic War**.
“Please do not MISUNDERSTAND, US 「El Blanche」 have evaluated YOU 「Liberator」 HIGHLY.”
While maintaining a fake smile...
The miko of 「El Blanche」 spun her words.
“The 「Infirma」 and the [Absence] are clearly WEAKLINGS. With no place to go, and are unable to obtain happiness even IF there is a place for them to stay, the 「Liberator」 is willing to accept, save, and take in these PEOPLE. THAT benevolent spirit is a wonderful THING.”
She clasped her hands, and closed her eyes as if making a prayer, then opened them with a “HOWEVER”.
“At the same time — I must say that YOU are also a very dangerous EXISTENCE.”
“Wh—Why is that!?”
Seeing the seated Tifalycia protest, Alpha slightly tilted her head and spoke.
“May I ask how do YOU think of US?”

“.....Eh?”
How do you think of the 「El Blanche」?
Hearing that sudden question, Reiji sneered and spoke.
“Suspicious. One-sidedly selling your self-righteous justice is just annoying. Some 『World Administrator』 (lol), messenger from the sky (lol)?”
“Wai.....R-Reiji!”
“What, isn’t that the truth?”
“E-Even so, your way of saying it──”
“I SUPPOSE.”
As if to interrupt Tifalycia who was trying to follow up, the miko of 「El Blanche」 giggled...
“That’s why YOU are DANGEROUS.”
And declared so.
“The ideal YOU embrace is WONDERFUL. HOWEVER ── That is in conflict with OUR JUSTICE. BECAUSE that MUST be done by the hands of US 『Noblesse』 and not anyone ELSE. Honestly speaking ── 「Liberator」 is a NUISANCE.”
“Wha...isn’t that just for the convenience of the 「El Blanche」 then!?”
“.....That’s why, since YOU are obstructing OUR convenience, WE are telling YOU to stop you DUMB TRASH.”
“.....Dumb trash?”
“──Ahh...uh...a-ahem ahem.....eh...I am saying PLEASE STOP interfering with OUR conveniences just NOW♡”
“.....Too full of openings.”
Perhaps Leu’s whisper was not heard, or perhaps it was heard but ignored, Alpha Stasis forcefully continued with her fake smile.
“If YOU people have POWER, YOU can probably face US head ON. HOWEVER, YOU people do not have that POWER. Those who do not have power IMITATING those with power is TROUBLING.”
Therefore, 「Liberator」 would be crushed.

When 「Liberator」 had to negotiate with them to retrieve their 『Race Flag』, they would bring out conditions that would fully defang 「Liberator」, or conditions that they absolutely could not compromise on, then force them into a **Heroic War** if they refused.
If they forced 「Liberator」 into choosing either accepting the conditions that would make 「Liberator」 unable to exist as 「Liberator」, or accepting a **Heroic War**, 「Liberator」 would not have a way out.
Even the originally effective buying time tactic known as pending the answer would only further tighten on their neck.
No matter which answer they chose, it would only lead to the fragile country known as 「Liberator」 falling into ruin and getting destroyed──
“Of course, WE will protect the people that have NO place to go to as a result of that you KNOW? Well, 「Liberator」 cannot even support its OWN citizens in the first PLACE, WE will at least provide THEM with the minimum necessities of LIVING. No no, YOU don’t need to THANK US. That is the obligation of US 「El Blanche」 as the 『World Administrator』 ── WE are the Noblesse after ALL.”
A fake smile full of affection.
Seeing that suspicious expression that could match some NEET **Hero** somewhere, Tifalycia lost her words.
What she said seemed graceful, but was actually one-sided, forceful, and self-conceited.
Tifalycia did not want to agree with any of that.
Did not want to agree, but ── it was the truth.
「Liberator」 had no power.
Because they had no power ── they could not protect it.
“──Now then. Is it about time now?”
Taigoubou cut in after watching the events play out, causing Tifalycia’s body to shiver.
The **Heroic War** between 「Sirena」 and 「El Blanche」.

「Liberator」 had no place to interfere in it.
Despite the bet being one which would decide the fate of 「Liberator」, they could only watch as spectators.
Therefore.
This situation...was...truly...
Helpless——
“Jumping to conclusions like this is your bad habit.”
Unexpectedly.
Reiji whispered in a small voice next to Tifalycia’s ear.
“.....Eh?”
“In the first place, your nature is frank, honest to a fault, unconditionally accepting of others’ kindness, annoying——”
“.....Wh-Why are you suddenly insulting.....”
“Since it’s the truth.”
Reiji spoke without concern, and Tifalycia was about to complain to him.
“And then, because of that, you refuse to give up to an unbelievable level and continue to look straight ahead. And that —— is able to match a NEET such as me.”
That was.
Not exactly insulting, she noticed.
——Since it was the truth.
Reiji certainly said so.
Truth.
Tifalycia’s truth.
Frank, honest to a fault, unconditionally accepting of others’ kindness, annoying, refusing to give up to an unbelievable level and continuing to look straight ahead.
Look...straight ahead——
Those words lit up the depth of Tifalycia’s heart, seething quietly, burning unbelievably hot——
“Then, it’s a pity but——”

Surrender. Before Taigoubou could say that word...
“──Are you really fine with it?”
Suddenly.
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 chuckled. Laughed.
Crossed his arms, spoke.
“There’s not really any other meaning ok? None but, Taigoubou, you can treat it as repayment for all kinds of services you provided. Do you truly believe that I did not anticipate this situation?”
As if putting on airs. As if making fun of her.
He told her ── in a severely provoking tone.
“Constantly losing, tolerant of other races, the peace advocating race, 「Sirena」. In truth, they are always only thinking for themselves. Because they are only thinking about their own race rather than any other races, they can even overlook the victory right before their eyes. Only wanting to maintain the status quo, and willing to use any kind of method for that sake. A total self-centered race such as 「Sirena」, throwing away shame, reputation, common sense, and snuggling under another race for dependence ── did you think that I cannot imagine it?”
Everyone could feel Reiji’s words stiffening the relaxed atmosphere.
“.....Kyahha, Reiji-chi is also very desperate♪”
The **Hero** of 「Sirena」 just smiled composedly and spoke.
“Doesn’t saying that mean you are telling everyone that you are out of plans? I guess you want to buy time, but the moment this situation occurred──”
“No, I would have done so before this situation even occurred if I wanted to buy time.”
He interrupted Taigoubou immediately.
With a sneer.
The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 spoke with a tone as if he was talking to an idiot.

“Well, thinking with common sense, there’s no reason for me to give advice that is advantageous to the sole enemy here, 「Sirena」, right? Ah there’s no other time buying tactic as obvious as this.. Un un, since I think so, you must also think that way, normally speaking.”
As he said so...
For a fragment of an instant ── However an obvious instant, he peeked at the 「El Blanche」 girl.
“.....”
The fake smile of Alpha Stasis clearly showed displeasure after noticing his gaze.
Completely not joining in on the conversation, the 「El Blanche」 girl who stayed as an observer gave off a displeased aura.
A fact that would normally be ignored caused Taigoubou’s chest to feel a slight discomfort.
Coincidence. By chance. It’s fine to ignore it. A fine detail that was strange to be concerned about.
.....However.
On the other hand, if that reaction had meaning.
How should that meaning be interpreted?
Why did Reiji ── the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 look at the agent of 「El Blanche」. Did the agent of 「El Blanche」 feel displeased about that gaze?
Could it be?
「El Blanche」 and 「Liberator」 teamed up?
The arrogant 「El Blanche」 might very well play a double-sided role.
The benefits for 「Liberator」 in teaming up with 「El Blanche」 were needless to say. What about the merits for 「El Blanche」 in teaming up with 「Liberator」?
It was not about teaming up with 「Liberator」 itself, the greatest benefit for teaming up with 「Liberator」 against 「Sirena」 and the

greatest demerit for 「Sirena」 — territory and authority, such possibilities could not be denied.
However, if that was the case, would 「Liberator」 need to tell Taigoubou of 「Sirena」that in the first place—
—*Taigoubou, you can treat it as repayment for all kinds of services you provided.*
No, that was not it.
Just like 「Sirena」 weighing 「Liberator」 and 「El Blanche」 on both sides of a scale, it would be fine to lean towards any side, what if 「Liberator」 also put 「Sirena」 and 「El Blanche」 on a scale and was in a situation in which choosing any side would be fine?
Or perhaps to 「El Blanche」, it did not matter if it was 「Liberator」 or 「Sirena」.
If any side worked, just like Taigoubou purposely telling Reiji the truth, Reiji also purposely told Taigoubou the truth—
It would be coherent.
"—"
Taigoubou...
That composed smile on her face disappeared for the first time.
".....Ryo-chan?"
The first person to notice that change was the person who stayed the longest with her in this world, Seire.
"Don't tell me, you believe those words just now?"
That question clearly divided the **Hero** Taigoubou and the **Ruler** Seire.
".....Seire. It's unfortunate, but — I cannot easily answer 『I think so too』."
"—Ha?"
As the **Hero** of 「Sirena」, as the ingenious tactician, Taigoubou knew.
Destiny zero, **Realtà** none. Not possessing any power, let alone a fragment of mana, no motivation, no common sense, no delicacy, the

NEET **Hero** Houbami Reiji, who seemed to be compiled of only negative traits, made the **Hero** Napoleon Bonaparte, who led the 「Beastia」 to obtain victory through various **Heroic Wars** who was undoubtedly an astonishing threat, suffer a complete loss.
──The country known as 「Liberator」 could easily collaborate with others.
Without any power in hand, no history, no resources, no threat.
A country just worth making use of.
However, just the **Hero** belonging to that country, was an unknown variable - different from every other country.
There was no need to fear the known. In contrast, it was necessary to fear the unknown.
Therefore, Taigoubou gathered information regarding him. Came up with strategies to the best of her ability. And all those plans she made ended up in failure ── and the strategy currently deployed counted even those failures into it.
Even in this overwhelmingly advantageous situation, she could not see through what the **Hero** known as Houbami Reiji was thinking.
He still ── remained an unknown.
Therefore, she could not decide.
The scenario was an arranged **Heroic War** with the 「El Blanche」.
Even this situation that should not have been thought of normally, she could not ascertain that he absolutely had not expected it and prepared the unimaginable development of 「Liberator」 and 「El Blanche」 teaming up.
“.....It’s a joke, right? Ryo-chan just needs to say 『I surrender』 and we will win──”
“If you really think so, then why don’t you say it?”
Casually. Nonchalantly.
He spoke with a tone as if the side that was in a helpless situation was not 「Liberator」.
“Well, as long as you don’t regret it later.”

“_____”
It could only be a bluff no matter how she considered it.
Reiji had only repeatedly claimed that he had expected this situation without any proof, he did not hint any actual method of overturning the situation.
Just that ── he exerted pressure onto Taigoubou and Seire that if the situation progressed as it was, the loser would be them.
There was no basis.
There was no proof.
Therefore, 「Sirena」 should declare their loss in the **Heroic War** with the 「El Blanche」 without hesitation and then they should win in the 「**Showdown**」 against 「Liberator」.
──Even though they should.
“Ryo...chan.....”
Her dear comrade. Her most trusted and closest friend was hesitating.
She believed that there being no evidence from Reiji was the best proof of the fact that the development was definitely beyond her expectations, and if they progressed here, they would be the side that would be destroyed──
“.....I don’t really get the fine DETAILS, BUT...”
As if irritated of waiting.
The agent of 「El Blanche」 who had been watching over the situation spoke.
“Hurry up ── NO, can YOU follow through with the decision made beforehand ALREADY?”
Those words, which side was it directed at?
「Sirena」 losing here was the decision.
There should not have been any time or reason to hesitate originally.
Hurry up and surrender──
However, which side was that for?
“.....”

It could not be answered.
Because there was no certainty, Taigoubou could not nod.
Seeing the **Hero** of 「Sirena」 biting her lip, her usual cheerfulness replaced with a bitter face, Reiji's grin deepened.
"Ah, could it be that you noticed? The trick behind this situation."
Seire reacted before anyone else to the word trick.
"Ryo-chan!"
"{If that's the case, why didn't you tell me} ──Are you going to ask that?"
".....!!"
Why do you know ── Seire seemed to want to say that, Tifalycia sympathized with her.
Because to Tifalycia, the situation that Seire currently got into was so vivid to her that her body could remember it clearly.
"Aah, Taigoubou definitely would have wanted to tell you at first. Normally speaking that is."
Reiji purposely shrugged his shoulder and narrowed his eyes dramatically, making Seire unable to look away.
She could not help but focus on his every action, concentrate on his every word.
"Normally...speaking.....?"
"Let me ask you back, is the current situation normal?"
"──"
"Because Taigoubou herself thinks that saying out what she just noticed will cause all of you to fall into the worst outcome, she couldn't say it."
Taigoubou trembled.
Confirming Taigoubou's obvious reaction, Reiji continued.
"Now then, what would that worst outcome be? ──What do you think is the worst thing that can happen now?"
He stretched out his right hand and urged Seire to speak up.
To speak up what was probably already in his mind.

Seire gulped, looked at both Reiji and Alpha, and opened her mouth — but before that.
“Yes, that’s it.”
Reiji snatched the confirmation.
In other words, she was forced to confirm that what she thought of as the worst outcome was true, causing her eyes to widen in disbelief.
“D-Don’t tell me.....”
Impossible. Impossible. Impossible.
Seire repeated that word many times in her head, then unconsciously saw Taigoubou’s bitter expression, and confirmed that the impossible would happen.
“If you noticed that truth, can you say it out loud? —You can’t.”
One-sidedly decided, but unable to rebut him, she bit her lip.
—*Incredible*.
Seeing the despairing atmosphere from just a while ago seemingly overturned, Tifalycia was utterly astonished.
The despairing situation was not overturned in reality.
He was only implying that it was overturned.
That was because — Reiji had not said a single thing about the actual content.
Therefore, as a spectator, Tifalycia had no idea what the worst outcome those girls thought of was.
He was just making the other party think that he knew, then acted on pursuing the content the opponents imagined on their own.
The **Hero** and **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 were toyed with on Reiji’s palm.
What a — despicable, nasty, wonderful fraud.
However, there was still someone clear-headed in this situation.
“Umm, seriously what the heck is going on.....NO, what is going ON?”
Alpha Stasis still maintained her smiling face, but was unsure whether she still wanted to keep her act up or not, she voiced her

doubt.
“PLEASE just say ‘I surrender’. That is enough to end THIS.”
“Oi oi, you still don’t understand this situation? It’s already way past that stage.”
“.....Haa?”
What the hell is this guy saying?
Alpha showed an expression which people other than Reiji could also see and know was genuine.
Only the 「Sirena」 girls saw it as plain acting and spoke with a stiff voice.
“You sure can say all you want in this situation.....”
“As expected of 「El Blanche」.”
Seeing 「Sirena」 not hiding their anger and hardening their attitude all of a sudden, Alpha’s smile stiffened.
“I do not understand what the two of YOU are angered ABOUT──”
“「El Blanche」 put 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」 on the scale, right!?”
“「El Blanche」 wants to dispose of 「Sirena」, right!?”
After a beat.
“──Ha!?”
“──Eh!?”
The **Ruler** and **Hero** of 「Sirena」 looked at each other’s faces filled with disbelief.
Reiji sneered.
“Ahh, imagination is incredible, isn’t it?”
Seeing Reiji’s pretentious attitude, Taigoubou immediately realized the situation she fell into, and her gaze sharpened.
“──Deceiving others is bad, Reiji-chi.”
“Oi oi, it’s the person who listened that’s bad, Taigoubou. ──You got deceived on your own, right?”
He harshly cut in.

“I believe that you understand it by now ── you had already fallen into my trap long ago. The moment you did, it was my win no matter what.”
Frivolously.
With composure as if peeking at a sandbox from the outside, he laughed.
“If you feel frustrated, why don’t you try to escape? It’s just a matter of saying {I surrender}.”
“N──”
Before she could finish *No need for you to tell me*.
“Well, in that instant, instead of the Elkea Floating Island that is promised to 「Sirena」, you will lose Watatsumi Palace though.”
“──Wh?”
“{Why? Did the matter regarding Elkea Floating Island leak out?} Oi oi, don’t make me say that kind of thing.”
As expected.
As expected, 「El Blanche」 and 「Liberator」 ──
──No, that’s not it!
It’s a bluff. A bluff. It must be a bluff!
Before she could convince herself, she vividly imagined the situation of Reiji coming into contact with the 「El Blanche」 beforehand and setting 「Sirena」 up.
That was impossible.
Even though it should be impossible...
The impossible things that led up to their current situation made her unable to deny it.
Calmly thinking about it, since they were deceived once, it was highly likely that he was still deceiving them.
However, at the same time, because he deceived them once, there was a high possibility that this time was the truth.
If she was deceived once, she would raise her awareness in order not to be deceived twice. By making use of that awareness in

reverse was ── very likely.
In conclusion.
She became unable to distinguish which was the truth.
In the first place ── Between 「Liberator」 and 「El Blanche」, which choice would bring the biggest benefit?
“Hey, what are you ── ahem, YOU people of 「Sirena」, PLEASE calm down. ME teaming up with 「Liberator」 IS──”
“.....Kyahha, let me ask you back ── can you believe the words of the party concerned?”
With the words 'party concerned', Alpha Stasis finally noticed it.
The situation progressed in a weird direction without her knowledge.
By a person who purposely made it progress that way──
“Houbami Reiji.....!”
She recognized the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 as an enemy for the first time.
This strange situation was created by him, he was controlling it.
However, that realization was overwhelmingly late.
“So ── What do you want?”
She asked that with a half given-up tone.
That question was exactly the words that Reiji had been waiting for.
“What we want...huh. I have been waiting for that question all this while.”
Then the maniacally laughing Reiji──
Tapped on Tifalycia’s shoulder.
“Isn’t that right, Tifalycia?”
Although he directed it to her.
“.....Ha?”
She could only make a confused response.
“No no, not ‘Ha?’.”
“Eh.....eh?”
“Un un, enough with playing dumb ── Come, tell them ‘What I want is *this*’ with guts.”

You are throwing the ball to me after coming so far──!?
“Wh-Why──”
Are you are pushing me to the front suddenly huh!?
She barely suppressed herself from continuing with that line.
Seeing Reiji’s gaze as if he had grasped everything, Tifalycia switched to a calm thought that even astonished herself.
Perhaps.
It was because she had always been watching Reiji’s figure toying around with Taigoubou, Seire, and Alpha Stasis from a spectator’s perspective.
Reiji’s intention, thoughts, aim.
She was able to predict them a little.
She felt that her thoughts were slightly influenced by him.
Surely, pushing Tifalycia onto the stage at that point was ── not mere recklessness, but there was a reason it had to be Tifalycia, and she had a vague idea how to respond to that expectation.
Not Reiji, not Leu, not Taigoubou, not Seire, and not Alpha.
The reason it had to be Tifalycia.
──*What will you do?*
If it’s me.
If it’s Tifalycia Cleargreen──
Tifalycia closed her eyes once, then opened them again and saw not Reiji or the two 「Sirena」girls .
It was the 「El Blanche」 girl.
Then, she spoke without a tint of hesitation.
“I, Tifalycia Cleargreen, the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 hereby declare.
We 「Liberator」 are ── formally requesting the aid of the 「El Blanche」.”
◇◆◇
“.....Ha?”
The first to make a sound was the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 in response to that nonsensical declaration.

“What.....did you say?”
That kind of mere begging would never work.
*As a **Ruler** who carried the responsibility for the race and the country, she can not even understand such a thing* ── holding such a feeling that was close to indignation, Seire looked at the 「El Blanche」 miko who should be having similar thoughts, and was shocked.
“Eh.....?”
The 「El Blanche」 girl was clearly in a bind.
Why──?
There was no reason to hesitate.
She could refuse it immediately and laugh it off.
Thinking so, Seire looked at her own **Hero** and once again she opened her eyes wide.
“Why.....Why is Ryo-chan also showing that same expression?”
Taigoubou also showed a clearly frustrated expression.
Hearing the question from her **Ruler**, the **Hero** came back to her senses and constructed her words.
“──Aah...that’s...how you play it.....”
Taigoubou understood.
The reason why Alpha, as the 「El Blanche」, was in a bind.
To her ── To the 「El Blanche」 who called themselves the 『World Administrator』, those words were a fatal strike.
“Because 「El Blanche」 is the 『World Administrator』.”
The **Hero** who had seen through everything and made the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 say those things looked straight at Alpha Stasis, and calmly spoke.
“Like what you said just now, the 「El Blanche」, as the 『World Administrator』, represents absolute justice. Towards those in defiance of that absolute justice, it is natural to suppress, guide, and educate them.”

Because of that, 「Liberator」 was a target of correction and reform since they went against that absolute justice.
However...
“On the other hand, towards those who seek help one-sidedly and show submission, lending a helping hand is the obligation of the 『World Administrator』 ── as those in power, right?”
Because they called themselves the 『World Administrator』, the 「El Blanche」 had imposed on themselves an obligation that they could not defy or change themselves.
The mission of the justice known as Noblesse Oblige.
“Of course, you can refuse us with a ‘Like I care’. However, in that instant, it will mean that you 「El Blanche」 have discarded that grandiose claim along with it. In that case, what’s left is ── just a boring conqueror race.”
The elegant and noble 「El Blanche」 would never allow such a label.
They understood that calling themselves the 『World Administrator』 only when it was convenient for them was not allowed.
Despite coming to an agreement with 「Sirena」, they still went with the **Heroic War** as a formality because their impression towards others was important.
All of that was for the sake of making a reason to convince others, based on the rule that they themselves deemed necessary to abide to.
That rule restrained themselves. At least, they had to show that they abided by that rule.
Therefore──
Since the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 formally has seeked help, she, as just a miko and not a **Ruler**, could only answer as such.
“.....Regarding THAT REQUEST.....Please let ME bring it back to MY home COUNTRY.”

She would like to examine the request again in another place.
In other words, she would like to leave the place ── towards her who declared so...
“Before that ── may I say something?”
As if to tear apart the scenario, Taigoubou swung her fishing rod sharply.
“I surrender.”
In an instant, on the magic formation displayed above their heads, the words 「El Blanche」 victory were carved.

◇◆◇

Along with the conclusion of the **Heroic War**, the sea above them closed up and lighting returned to normal.
Under the lighting that had been dimmed, Taigoubou seemed to have regained her composure, and spoke quietly.
“With this, the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 belongs to 「El Blanche」, so we have carried out our end of the contract. In other words, the promise between 「Sirena」 and 「El Blanche」 has been fulfilled, right?”
The possibility of Reiji teaming up with 「El Blanche」 had been cut off.
Taigoubou quickly took action once she judged so.
「Liberator」 seeked aid from 「El Blanche」, as a result, they were spared from the correction and education from the 「El Blanche」, and would instead obtain refuge, that did not matter.
That was already unrelated to「Sirena」.
What was related to them was only the matter regarding the reward they agreed upon beforehand for selling out 「Liberator」.
It was unknown how Reiji found out, what 「Sirena」 wanted was a piece of territory under the rule of 「El Blanche」 in exchange for selling out 「Liberator」.
They who boasted that having Watatsumi Palace alone would be fine were going to receive that land that they had been secretly

aiming for from the 「El Blanche」──
That should have been the outcome of this commotion, however...
“NO. UNFORTUNATELY, this cannot COUNT.”
The 「El Blanche」 girl looked at the two 「Sirena」 and clearly answered.
Seeing that clear attitude, the **Ruler** of 「Sirena」 spoke with a calm demeanor on the surface.
“.....This is a little bit unreasonable.”
As if those words were the cue.
Several hundreds of girls that had gathered unknowingly surrounded Alpha.
Taking a glance at their movements with a pasted smile as if it was nothing, the 「El Blanche」 miko quietly spoke.
“If YOU want to talk about REASON, the premise of 「Liberator」 becoming a PROBLEM for world order YOU mentioned has already crumbled in the first PLACE. Since 「Liberator」 has shown submission towards the 「El Blanche」. There is NO obligation to fulfil a contract with the premise CRUMBLED. With THAT being the CASE, if YOU have any COMPLAINTS──”
Slowly, as she spread her white and black wings, her smile faded away.
“FORMALLY, IN the way of a **Heroic War** ── I can hear YOU OUT.”
Any more complaints would be accepted in the way of a full-scale war.
As the girl openly declared so...
“────”
「Sirena」 could not say anything.
Them facing 「El Blanche」 head on and obtaining victory would be extremely difficult. It could be said to be impossible.
Perhaps because she knew how bad of a position they were in, she, as just a miko, could make such a forceful stand without any concern.

Despite that, 「Sirena」 could not just compromise and pull out.
The tense atmosphere that was on the verge of raging was──
“Oh, next is a proper **Heroic War**? That’s nice, do it do it.”
Reiji, who had moved onto Taigoubou’s bed and laid down, poured oil on the fire as a complete spectator.
──*Whose fault is it...*
Taigoubou was about to say that on reflex, then noticed that instead of 「Liberator」 against 「Sirena」, or 「Liberator」 against 「El Blanche」, it had changed to 「Sirena」 against 「El Blanche」 unknowingly.
──*No.*
It was not unknowingly.
They were put against each other.
They were set up to turn the **Heroic War** which should have been a rigged one into a real one.
And the one who created all that was──
Noticing Taigoubou’s gaze, the sneering Reiji purposely looked away.
The girl in line with his gaze ── the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」, Tifalycia Cleargreen...
“──Then, how about this?”
As if it was natural...
She controlled the atmosphere.
“The three races that are here. How about forming a temporary alliance between us?”
And said something incredible.
◇◆◇
The person who broke the long, way too long silence, was the **Hero** of 「Sirena」.
“.....Ti ── TifaTifa, what might you...be...saying.....?”
Not just 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」 who are already in an alliance, but a three race alliance including 「El Blanche」?

That bizarre idea, that unimaginable development, robbed away her thoughts and rationality.
“I don’t think it’s something that strange though.”
It was the girl who could only be seen as an 「Elf」 who said so.
With half of her bloodline from 「Infirma」, the [Absence], Tifalycia Cleargreen, looked at Seire, Taigoubou, and Alpha in sequence, and then spoke.
“The objective of 「Sirena」 is the happiness of 「Sirena」, by maintaining the status quo. The objective of 「El Blanche」 is to act the role of『World Administrator』, by giving salvage to those seeking aid. And the objective of us 「Liberator」 is to sustain our current livelihood. Is there any reason to be in conflict?”
“You say it as if it’s so.....simple.”
Certainly.
Saying it like that, there was no real reason for the three sides to be in opposition.
Tifalycia added further.
“In the first place, what are the actual objectives of all the races?”
—— 「Sirena」 did not care about anything else as long as they were able to live in peace and happiness.
It was for that peace and happiness that they made a move on 「Liberator」 which was easy to make use of, and if it would no longer benefit them, it would not bother them to sever ties with them completely. And then, as long as the refuge provided by 「El Blanche」 did not interfere with their self governance, it would be a great shelter.
——「El Blanche」 wanted to play the role of 『World Administrator』.
That basically meant, in order to demonstrate their power as 『World Administrator』, they wanted to put the other races below them. As long as 「Liberator」 acknowledged 「El Blanche」 as a superior

race, it would not be a problem to allow them to continue their self governance.
—「Liberator」 wanted aid from allied country, immediate aid.
As long as what was lost was not the dignity and ideals of the country known as 「Liberator」 for that sake, others did not really matter. It was not a problem even if they had to acknowledge 「El Blanche」 as the 『World Administrator』.
In other words.
“Well, issues that can be considered as problems.....there are none.”
Hearing the deep in thought Seire murmuring that, Tifalycia spoke without changing her expression.
“Isn’t that right? It may sound unbelievable at first, but if you point it out in actual words and consider, there isn’t any real hinderance.
—No, rather, you can say that there is only benefit.”
Because she was an [Absence] that had mixed blood from other race, she was able to come up with the idea of benefiting through passing the wall of the races.
Tifalycia proudly spoke as if it was the truth of the world.
“What the freak...are you talking about?”
Alpha Stasis, who had remained silent...
The 「El Blanche」 miko who gave up her fake smile and revealed her irritated expression...
Strongly refused.
“There’s no freaking way I will make that kind of thing.”
The girl, who had been giving off a pure and holy atmosphere, stared at Tifalycia and spoke with an aggressive tone.
“.....Well well, AlAl is a miko after all, right?”
“That’s not what I freaking mean.”
Slapping away Taigoubou’s mediation, when Alpha was about to continue...

“.....Not in the form of ruling, but in the form of being equivalent with other races ── that kind of an alliance is not allowed by 「El Blanche」.”
Until now.
Leu, who had not spoken a single word...
“Therefore, 「El Blanche」 will only take the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 and there is no way they will give any other race their own 『Race Flag』 ── is that what you wanted to say, two-faced?”
“──What do you freaking know about US you stupid PEEKING STREGA?”
Alpha cursed in retaliation, while Leu stared back without any expression.
Seeing the two on the brink of rampaging, Taigoubou spoke with a troubled face.
“.....Hmm, so, do LeuLeu and AlAl know each other?”
“No comment.” “I don’t have the obligation to freaking answer you.”
“Wao.....”
As they rejected Taigoubou in unison, she exaggeratedly shrugged at their unapproachable attitude.
Then, Tifalycia who paid attention even to their bickering...
“Then let’s do this.”
And directed the situation.
“Us 「Liberator」 will gain ownership of the 『Race Flag』 of 「El Blanche」.”
““Ha?””
The synched voices came from the two 「Sirena」.
“Then we will transfer the ownership of the 『Race Flag』 of 「El Blanche」 we obtained to the 「Sirena」. With that, the three-races alliance (Three-way monitoring) should be established. For that sake, it would be great if 「Sirena」 can assist us.”
The one who reacted the most to that bland speech was the 「El Blanche」 miko.

“Wha──! What the freaking hell are you talking about you IDIOT!! There’s no way that can be──”
“We won’t know whether it can be done or not without trying it first. Firstly, I am not hiding anything about this matter. Your side should have made plenty of preparations though.”
“──E-Even...so.....such a thing won’t be allowed!?”
The shout, which had no intimidation perhaps due to her cute appearance and her voice, did not reach the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」.
“Allowed or not is a story between 「Liberator」 and 「Sirena」. You aren’t related to it, right?”
“There’s no way I’m not──”
Related.
The 「El Blanche」 girl knew the reason she could not continue. That was because ── What the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 was talking about was none other than the same plan as the conspiracy between 「El Blanche」 and 「Sirena」 in regards to the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」.
“What is allowed to you as a miko is to bring the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 who is seeking shelter to have an audience with the **Ruler** of 「El Blanche」 ── is that not all?”
“Y──You jerk.....”
Seeing Alpha clenching her teeth, Tifalycia showed an instance of an apologetic expression, then closed her eyes, and told her as if trying to convince herself.
“You should have considered the possibility of having what you did happen to you.”
You reap what you sow. Karma comes back to bite you──
Tifalycia said so and then turned to face the two pressured 「Sirena」.
“Aah, by the way, there is no need to consider what would happen if we could not obtain the 『Race Flag』. Suppose that is the case, it

will only be 「Liberator」 who sacrifices. That said — I think that’s just unfounded worry.”
She cut off her words with a breath.
“Now then. What do the two of you think?”
And gorgeously tilted her head.

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1 **Original text used bo in boku first, then changed to watakushi. ↩**

Epilogue - If There Is No Money, Just Ask From Others

“Say, Reiji-chi.....What kind of magic did you use?”
The **Heroic War** between 「Sirena」 and 「El Blanche」 ended, the ownership of the 『Race Flag』 of 「Liberator」 changed to 「El Blanche」, the frustrated Alpha returned to the country of 「El Blanche」 (Filentania) to report the request made by 「Liberator」.
Taigoubou watched Tifalycia who was having diplomacy talks with Seire, and asked curiously.
“Did you see me do anything to her?”
“I didn’t. That’s why I’m asking.”
Reiji doing something was a confirmed matter.
Seeing her confirming so, Reiji let out a long sigh.
“.....Seriously, you **Heroes** are so short-sighted.”
As if he'd completely given up...
Then he could not help but joyfully speak.
“As long as you can’t see through that fellow’s true nature, no matter how many times you **Heroes** challenge me, my victory is absolute.”
Even though he seemed joyful — that gaze which seemed like it was pitying something, caused Taigoubou to open her eyes wide.
「El Blanche」 and 「Liberator」.
Calling them over and making them face against each other was 「Sirena」.
Even though they should have done well in spilling the water of those two races above the basin of 「Sirena」 — when they

noticed it, there was an even bigger bowl.
It was not only the unknown existence known as the **Hero** of 「Liberator」, Reiji, which they did not expect, but also the **Ruler** (Tifalycia), an [Absence], treated as a bonus along with the **Hero**, a double layer basin.
──Spilled water could not be retrieved.
However, that spilled water merely flowed into an even bigger basin known as 「Liberator」.
The 「Sirena」 were just the water spilled above that basin──
“──As a result.....we completely lost.”
Taigoubou spoke with an expression like she had reached enlightenment, while Reiji added on.
“Oh? What, are you giving up the 「**Showdown**」?”
“Eh?”
*「**Showdown**」?*
After thinking about that, Taigoubou noticed.
The virginity stealing battle to steal Reiji’s first time.
The victory condition for 「Liberator」 was to escape Watatsumi Palace.
In other words, 「Liberator」 had not achieved its victory condition yet, and the dominance of their alliance had not been decided.
“Well, the leadership won’t matter when the three-race alliance is established. It’s fine for you to declare defeat now and let us win, right?”
Seeing that confident grin...
“──Kyahha, there’s no way I can allow that, right?”
Taigoubou teasingly smiled, and pointed her fishing rod at Reiji.
◇◆◇
“Master.”
I will give it my all ── After escaping Taigoubou who declared that and assaulted him without caring for her image, and entering the

palace of 「Sirena」, Reiji was honestly surprised by Leu who suddenly appeared from the shadow.
“O-Ooh Leu huh.....Are you able to use 『Adjacent Darkness』 already? ──Aah, since the 「El Blanche」 took possession of the 『Race Flag』, the virginity stealing battle itself is considered over huh. Alright, then let’s run, now we run, hurry up and run.”
“Master is ── incredible as expected.”
“Eh, what? That doesn’t matter so hurry up──”
“Everything ── Everything went according to what Master said.”
She did not listen to anything that her Master said.
Seeing Leu’s fervent tone, Reiji realized that he would not achieve his objective unless he had a proper talk with her, then exhaled.
“.....It’s not really everything right?”
“That’s...a lie.”
On that day.
When Taigoubou appeared at Tistel and talked about an alliance with 「Sirena」, Leu asked him for his opinion about the alliance.
What Reiji answered was the end result of a three-race alliance including the 「El Blanche」 which was how it turned out currently.
That was his prediction after asking Leu where Taigoubou went before coming to Tistel and was told that she went to the territory of the 「El Blanche」 (Elkea Floating Island).
Although she was not Tifalycia, she could only consider that as ── seeing into the future.
“.....Is Master...actually 「El Blanche」?”
“Ah? No way.....Well, the principle behind『Prophecy Magic』 was probably something similar though.”
Reiji sneered, then immediately scratched his head as if feeling troublesome, and irresponsibly threw those words.
“Rather, I have repeated it many times before, what’s important is to gather and analyze intel beforehand. If you want to praise me, praise yourself at the same time for your share.”

“.....Ecchi.”
“Haa!?”
“You want me to comfort myself, in other words, it means that.”
“I never told you to comfort yourself in the first plaaaaaace!!”
“But I want Master to comfort me.”
“Can you not twist the facts and pressure others!?”
“It’s a joke.”
“.....Your jokes are never funny.”
Reiji heaved a big sigh, then furrowed his brows and raised his face after feeling something amiss.
“Therefore ———— my.”
A voice too faint to be heard.
“.....Ah? What was it?”
Leu stood at the end of the passage, in a position with her back facing the light, and seemed to be staring at him.
Her expression could not be read under it as if it was too dazzling——
“.....Leu?”
Hearing Reiji’s call, she smiled sorrowfully.
“Therefore, I have to become your —— Houbami Reiji’s enemy.”
She clearly told him.
Leu —— The [Quad-Blood Princess] of the 「Strega」, Clanleu Shimishika, disappeared before Reiji.

Afterword

Thank you for each time. I am ‘one who forgets about forgetting itself!’ Karino Mikata.
I apologize for making everyone wait five months since the previous volume.....! The second volume is finally out.
Now then, after viewing the colored illustrations of this volume, you may be imagining that.....those kind of scenes have indeed increased (Wide grin).
Of course, our carefree NEET is still in good health, I will be glad if you can enjoy the main theme of Tifalycia working hard to somehow fight back against our NEET.
Speaking of carefree, I immediately remembered my house cat.
It is still waking me up to pester me for food and obstructing my work, and after feeding it, there are only two choices: “Play or “Pet”.
If I leave it alone, or chase it out of the room and close the door because of work, it will try to get in my way. As it is a room without locks, I will hear some scratching noise and soon the door will open.
Then it will enter the room with a smug face and plop onto my desk.
It really is very carefree.
It cannot be helped as I have to give up and pet it, play with it until it is satisfied and goes out.
What an ordeal, now I can finally get to work.....When I think so and close the door...
Scratching noise
It is carefree.
Below is my appreciation.

In any case, first is my editor-in-charge O-sama. When O-sama says “It was interesting”, Karino will think “Ah, it’s good to be alive today”. Thank you very much. Especially for this volume, I have troubled you alot in the improvement of the second half. I look forward to continue working with you in future!
The character creation god Necometa-sama. The new character design of this volume is the best! Especially that character in the colored illustration, Editor-san kept yelling “She’s so cute!!”. The visual aspect is needless to say, her expression is also very great.....Karino can use this illustration to make today’s meal tasty as well.
Also, friends, family members, and everyone who supported in tangible or intangible ways.
Everyone from the editorial department and sales department with Y Chief Editor as head, Designer-sama, Proofreader-sama, everyone from the publisher and bookshops.
More than anything — you all who have read up to here, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Let us meet again!
Karino Mikata

Special Extra - A newly written Short Story

“By the way, what do you normally do in your own room?”
“──Ha?”
On a certain afternoon. When Tifalycia went to Reiji’s room to talk about governing matters, Reiji asked that to her on the contrary.
“Why...all of a sudden?”
“Well, there’s no real reason.”
“Haa.....In my own room, is it?”
“Yeah. Aren’t there various things?”
“.....Well, there is Tistel’s──”
“Un, not that kind of boring stuff. It’s about things you will be embarrassed about if someone sees.”
“Wh──Why do you want to know about such things!?”
“Let me ask you back ── What do you think is the reason?”
“Eh.....”
When Reiji asked like that, there would definitely be a meaning──
“Well, there’s no complicated reason behind it. I’m just bored.”
“You’re the worst!!”
“No no, didn’t I always say? Intel is everything. It begins with knowing about any and all kinds of things, you know?”
“Don’t make it sound plausible for.....”
“So?”
“There is no such thing!”
Clearly denying it, Tifalycia glared at Reiji.
“I said this before, there are many miscellaneous chores to do, especially recently, so I do not have the time to do anything else.”
“Hoh, none? Completely? Not even an instant?”
“.....That’s.....if talking about an instant, then there is.”
“Right? Let alone an instant, between jobs, when entering the bath after the job is over, a time to take a breather, you still have such times. Especially when considering yesterday’s workload, you should have plenty of time to waste.”
It was a strangely detailed story.
Tifalycia noticed her own anxiety and quickly spoke.
“Yesterday...certainly.....umm, I did have some time to do some light reading.”
“Yesterday...huh.”

“.....Umm, what...do you want to say?”
“Eh? Isn’t it about what kind of embarrassing thing Tifalycia usually does in her own room?”
Reiji grinned.
That roundabout way of asking ── Tifalycia could not help but realize.
That was wrong. It was not a simple question of asking what Tifalycia usually did in her own room. It was not that, the objective was something that laid ahead of that.
Rather ── Did Reiji already know?
About what Tifalycia usually did in her own room.
The moment Tifalycia thought so, her face turned completely red with embarrassment and realized that she had to make an excuse immediately.
“U-Umm...you see. I-It’s not really something embarrassing but ── that.....I-I wore the clothes my mother worn in the past and...p.....pretended to be.....the **Ruler** of 「Elf」 ── t-there is a deep reason behind it.”
“Heeeeh (w) By the way, what’s this meaning that you speak of?”
“Uu...guh.....Umm, I’m still...the lowest seat of...the royalty of 「Elf」.....”
“Ah, there’s still the what if as a potential inheritor of the throne! Unlikely though! In the first place, even if there is the possibility, pretending to be the **Ruler** won’t really have any use though!”
“Uuu.....”
“Well, what I want to find out is not that.”
“Not this!?”
“There’s something even worse right?”
“E.....Even worse.....?”
Amongst the things Tifalycia did in her own room which would make her feel embarrassed if seen by others, there was only that ── no.
Don’t tell me──
Was that seen?
Reiji grinned as if he knew everything, Tifalycia’s face was already beet red, she faced down, looking about to cry, and spoke with a really small voice.
“When I was...reading th.....that.....book.....occasionally.....umm.....my feelings...heightened.....umm.....basically.....that’s...therefore.....you can call it natural reaction or──”
“──Alright, okay.”
Suddenly, Reiji clapped his hands.
Tifalycia jolted her body and looked up questioningly, to see Leu in the room unknowingly.
“Luring with this kind of feeling will make a weak opponent talk themselves.”
“──I see, I have learned from this. As expected of Master.”
“Eh.....eh?”
Lured? A weak opponent will talk themselves?

In order to teach Leu the method of grasping a weak opponent in her hands, Tifalycia was used as the teaching material?
Reiji had not really ── known what Tifalycia had done?
“Well, the difficulty depends on the opponent. And as usual, Tifalycia has been a great help for becoming a sample as a good way to kill time.”
“────”
“Hmm? What? No words of gratitude? I’m also glad to know a new side of Tifalycia. Pretending to be the **Ruler** of 「Elf」 (lol).”
Tifalycia, who was tapped on the shoulder by the unreservedly laughing Reiji, trembled with rage boiling inside──
“Ah, is it better if I expose one more thing?”
Her worst weakness was grasped by her worst opponent, as she knew that, she lost her momentum and hung her shoulders powerlessly──

Bonus Story - Reiji And His Princesses❤

“S-Speaking of which ── What does Reiji like?”
Tifalycia asked in a casual way, while Reiji snickered under his scarf and replied.
“It’s you ── If I answer like this, what will you do?”
“Eh!”
“Hmm? Oh, you didn’t hear me because it’s too far?”
“T-Too close──”
Tifalycia panickedly retreated and hit the wall, Reiji stretched out his arm and pressed onto the wall.
Then as if kissing Tifalycia’s long ear, he whispered.
“What I like ── is Tifalycia, it’s you.”
“──Ah.”
As his breath caressed her ear, Tifalycia shivered and desperately twisted her face away.
“Wh-What kind of nonsense are you saying all of a sudden.....I-I’m not going to be deceived.”
“What, you don’t believe me? It can’t be helped──”
Reiji raised Tifalycia’s chin while speaking.
“You want me to show you proof, right?”
“──”
He just pushed for a kiss like that ── before that, he spoke.
“──If you were courted by the men of other races like this, what are you going to do?”

“.....Eh?”
Reiji unhesitantly let go of Tifalycia and shook his head as if he could not bear to watch anymore.
“Sending an opposite gender diplomat. Suddenly expressing love by going along with the other party’s conversation, then lead the pace and conquer in one breath. To be overwhelmed by just this level of atmosphere, you are so gullible.”
“Y-You...You──”
“Also, the opposite of like is not afraid, got it? 『To find out Reiji’s weakness. First understand what he likes』, this kind of logic is nonsensical.”
“How did you know!?”
“This kind of thing is so easy to guess──”
Reiji closed in on Tifalycia again and made eye contact with her in close distance.
“It’s obviously because I know everything about 『the thing I like』, got it?”
“──”
“See, so gullible.”
Tifalycia blushed due to frustration and shame, along with some other reason, and shouted.
“Y-You ── scum of a NEET!”
“I know what Master likes.”
Seeing Leu suddenly saying such things with confidence in his room, Reiji frowned for an instant, and said.
“Oh, un. That’s great.”
“.....”
“I told you already, can you stop using 『Adjacent Darkness』 whenever you get excited!?”
The black robe Leu wore wrapped around Reiji, robbing away his freedom as if it was natural.
“I am doing what Master likes now.”

“You seriously don’t listen to others. And I can only feel danger from what you just said.”
“Do not worry. I will not touch Master at all.”
After saying so, Leu pressed Reiji against the wall with her black robe, then closed their distance after moving the robe out of the way and ── pushed her arm against the wall while gazing at Reiji without batting an eye.
“.....How?”
“.....How...meaning?”
“『Kabedon』[1].”
“.....Ahh──”
Due to the height difference, Leu’s posture was gazing up, in addition, despite her saying that she would not lay a finger on Reiji, her entire body stuck to him, making it difficult to see the action as a kabedon, only Leu thought that she was doing a kabedon on Reiji.
“Do you feel your heartbeat accelerating?”
“I don’t?”
“.....It can’t be helped. Then──”
At the same time Leu said so, she suddenly raised her leg and pressed onto Reiji’s crotch with her knee.
“What!?”
“『Matadon』[2]. Is your heartbeat accelerating?”
“It’s speeding! I thought you were going to crush them!”
“Strange. Master’s 『Tablet』 wrote that the other party will be happy if this is done.”
“That’s because the roles of the man and woman are reversed.....Will a man be happy to have this done to him?”
“.....! I see.”
Leu immediately used her robe to forcefully create the scenario of Reiji doing a kabedon on her.
“.....How?”

“.....Can you tell me where in this is my freedom?”
“I...have been fervently courted by Master...so happy. If possible.....I wish to reach the last step.”
“As I thought.....in the end, these are what you like!”
Reiji’s shout just echoed in the room.

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1 Kabedon - http://yabai.com/p/2703 ↩

2 Matadon - Similar meaning to Kabedon but with the lower part instead. ↩

Credits

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EPUB is done by JLN